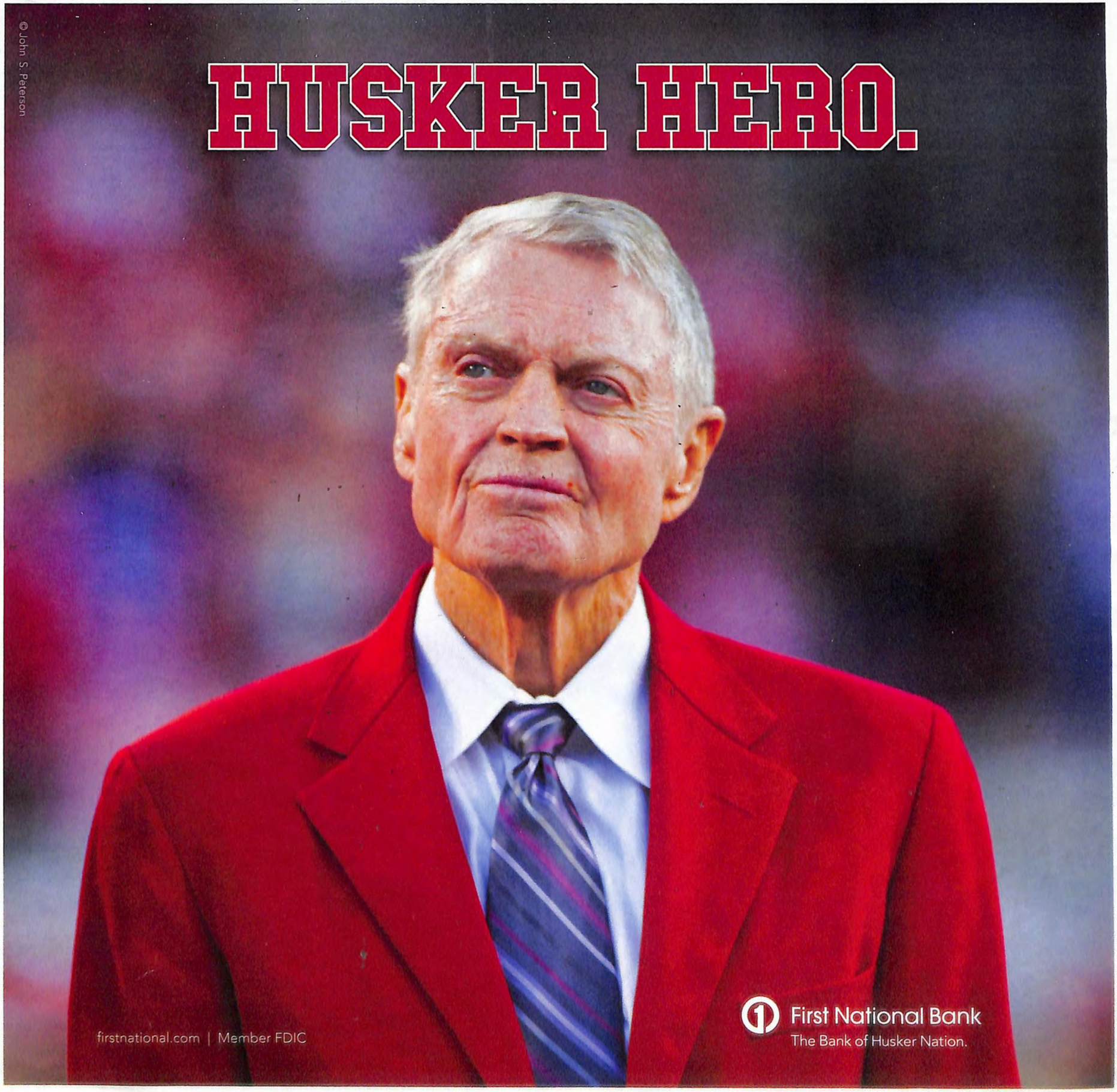
T.O. LEGEND&LEADER

A TRIBUTE TO TOM OSBORNE

An icon steps away, leaving a lasting legacy that will influence and shape Nebraska athletics for years to come.


HUSKER HERO.
© John S. Peterson
firstnational.com | Member FDIC
First National Bank
The Bank of Husker Nation.

Tom and Nancy

THANK YOU

For your
Integrity, Consistency,
Wonderful Memories
and Friendship

Ernie's

IN CERESCO

One Stop Shopping For Your Home ~ Since 1946
Dean Swanson, President
www.shopernies.com

MORE TIME FOR FISHING

Some things never change. Tom Osborne's leadership skills. His calm demeanor. His passion for fishing. Nebraska athletics live up to these standards: Integrity, trust, respect, teamwork and loyalty. You may have seen those words on a podium at a Nebraska news conference. Those same building blocks describe Osborne, who has been a leader at many levels — player, coach, congressman and athletic director. He will step down as AD on Jan. 1. As for life after Jan. 1? "It leaves me with a great deal of fear and trepidation," Osborne said with a smile during a news conference in September announcing his retirement. "because (wife Nancy) keeps reminding me the garage hasn't been cleaned in three years and I can see a whole list of things popping up." Here's guessing Osborne will make time for a little fishing. Today, the Journal Star takes a look at the impact Osborne has made at Nebraska as the Hall of Fame coach prepares to leave the program.

Editor's note: Here is an excerpt from a story that appeared in the Sunday Journal and Star on Sept. 2, 1973, before Tom Osborne's first game as NU head coach.

A man of many titles

A smile started in the corners of his mouth and slipped across his face into his eyes as he talked about his fishing abilities.

Nebraska head football coach Tom Osborne doesn't often get the chance to indulge in fishing, one of his favorite means of relaxing. And he says he's a good fisherman — not boasting, but pointing out that his family eats fish once a week during the summer from this efforts.

What kind of man is Tom Osborne, heir to Bob Devaney, who brought Nebraska's football fortunes from the depths of despair to the glory of national championships?

He is described variously as religious, perfectionist, businesslike, cool, calm, dedicated, introverted, straight. The list could go on indefinitely.

Somehow the descriptions are both correct and incorrect at the same time.

While he is cool and calm in public, he is warm and much involved when playing with his own three children or those in the neighborhood. Osborne is dedicated to the extent that all men want to be a success. Dedication is one ingredient that makes for success. He is introverted in the sense that he is a thinking, doing man rather than one who spends a lot of time talking. Tom is straight but certainly not square.

If one were to look at his academic credentials, a natural question would be: Why isn't he a college professor instead of subjecting himself to the pressures of a major collegiate coaching assignment?

For a time he was. For three years after receiving his doctorate, Osborne split his time between teaching and coaching at NU. Soon he was forced to make a decision — either become a full-time professor or a full-time coach. Osborne says the decision was not a hard one to make.

"I tried to picture myself completely out of athletics and I couldn't. Not when it had been a part of my life since the age of 5 or 6."

SECTION CREDITS

Sports editor: Darnell Dickson

Assistant sports editor: Clark Grell

Photo editor: Ted Kirk

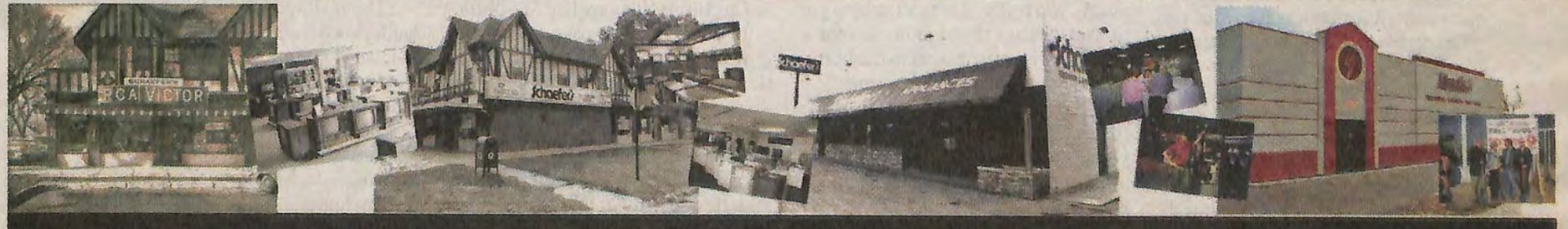
Writers: Brian Christopherson, Ken Hambleton, Cindy Lange-Kubick, Brian Rosenthal, Steven M. Sipple and Don Walton

Editing: Julie Koch, Rob Schlotterbeck, Matt Schubert, Karl Vogel

Cover photo: Gwyneth Roberts

Special thanks: To Tom Osborne and the Nebraska athletic department for their help and cooperation with this project

More Than Just TV's & Appliances for over 66 years.



48th & R - Lincoln • 402-464-8888 • www.schaeferstv.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Culture change, academic center highlight Osborne's time as Nebraska's athletic director.

By BRIAN ROSENTHAL
Lincoln Journal Star

Tom Osborne described his experiences as coaching and serving as athletic director as both challenging and enjoyable.

The bigger challenge, though, was on the football field.

That, Osborne said, was because of the many variables involved.

"You have 150 young people and an opponent that you don't know for sure what they're going to do," Osborne said. "Sometimes you've got the weather, and sometimes you've got injuries."

That doesn't mean that his stint as athletic director didn't come with a formidable challenge or two.

When he first replaced the fired Steve Pederson in an interim role in 2007, Osborne said his biggest task was changing the culture and getting everybody to feel good about what they were doing.

"I thought when I first came here that people seemed to be a little bit in shock, a little disoriented, maybe not a lot of trust," Osborne said. "It seemed like they had been through a lot.

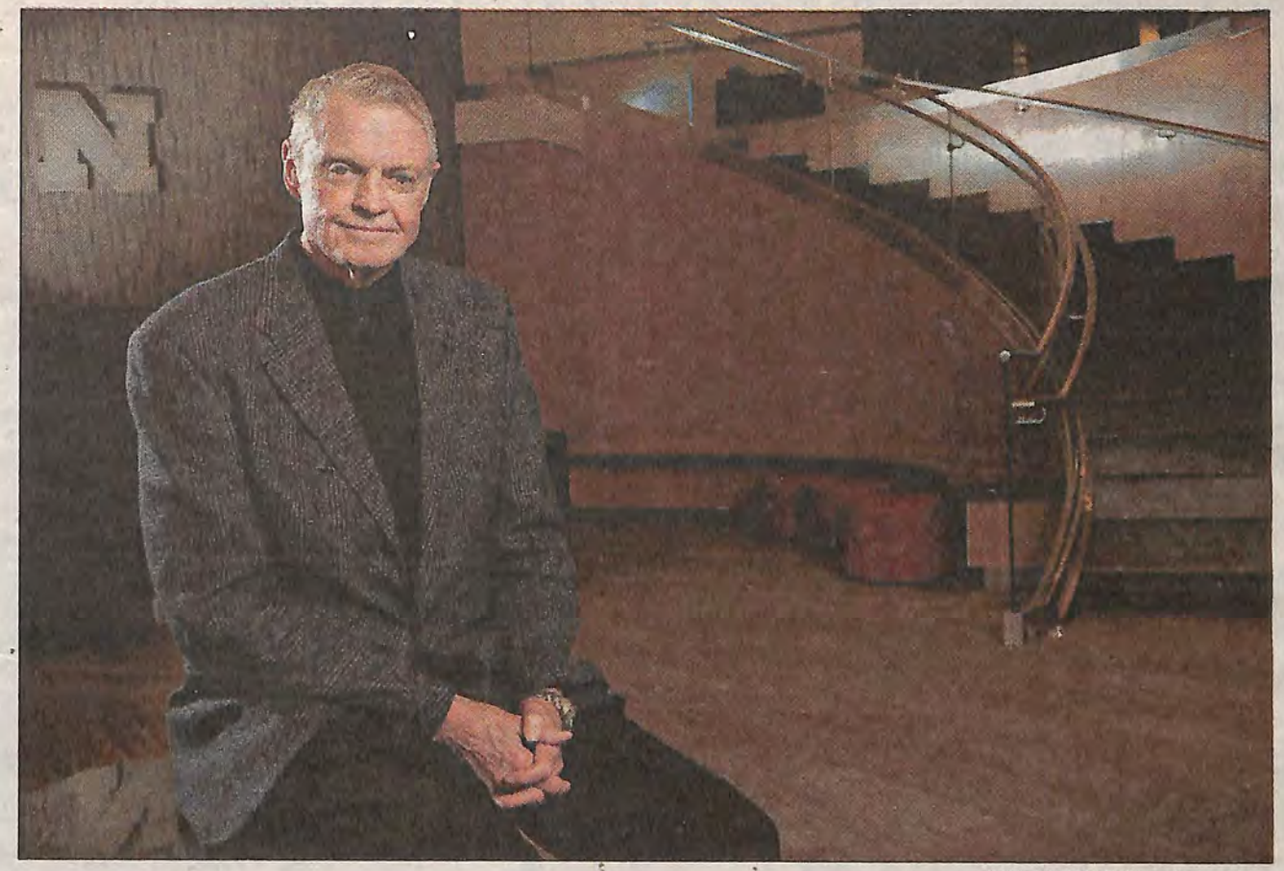
"I think, over time, people have become more comfortable. I think most of them would tell you they enjoy coming to work here. There are fewer turf battles. There are more people pulling in the same direction, or at least, that's my perception."

The fan base, Osborne said, is also more unified than it was five years ago.

Osborne's most rewarding experience as athletic director, he said, was helping build the Hewit Academic Center on the west side of Memorial Stadium, where the former weight room was located.

"It benefited all the sports, all 23," Osborne said, "and really, the central part of our mission here is graduation and academics and making sure people grow and develop personally."

The most difficult part of Osborne's tenure as athletic director, he said, was firing coaches – football coach Bill Callahan, baseball coach Mike Anderson and men's basketball coach Doc Sadler.



GWYNETH ROBERTS/Lincoln Journal Star

Tom Osborne said his most rewarding experience as athletic director was the development of the Hewit Academic Center.

"I know how hard it is, and I know how hard they work, and having been a coach, you really hate to let people go," he said. "That's the ultimate test for me, was always what was in the best interest of the athletic department long term? You couldn't let personalities or feelings get in the way of what you felt needed to be done for the best interest of the athletic department. But it was still very hard."

The highlights of Osborne's coaching tenure were three national championships in a four-year span, along with the relationships he built with many players and coaches.

His toughest moments as a coach, Osborne said, included the national championship near-misses – in 1982, 1983 and 1993.

"The main regret is just how hard the players worked and the level of talent and everything we had," Osborne said. "You'd like to have seen those guys achieve a championship, because they certainly played at that level. They deserved to be at that level. But you've got to be good, and you also have to be a little bit fortunate."

Osborne said he'll remain around the athletic department for the next five or sixth months after his retirement, and is willing to serve as a resource to new athletic director Shawn Eichorst, if needed.

"If I can be a resource in recruiting, I will," he said. "I see a lot of student-athletes and parents come through, and if I can help, I'll do that."

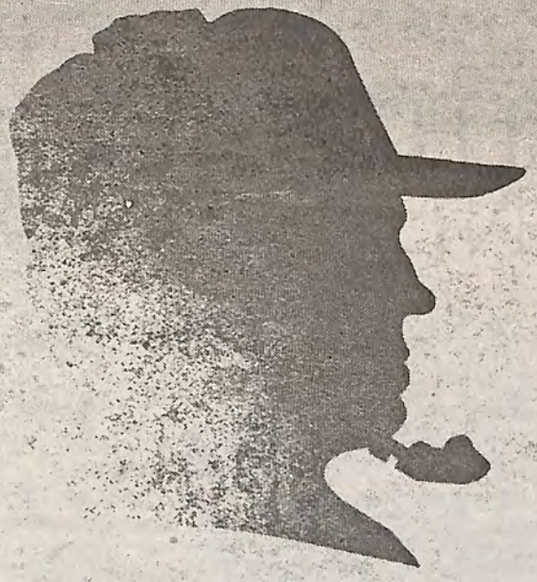
He'll also assist in any fundraising, and also focus on helping develop the athletic research area.

"The shell space is built," Osborne said. "We haven't done the build-out yet; we're getting a handle on staffing, but there's a lot to be ironed out there."

In addition to working more with his TeamMates mentoring program, Osborne said also he'll spend more time with his wife, Nancy.

"I've told Nancy I'd like to do something with her that would be her choice. So many things that we've done, she's been drug along to bowl games and different things," he said.

"She's bitten the bullet a pretty major way for a lot of years."



COURAGE; GENEROSITY; FAIRNESS; HONOR; IN THESE ARE THE TRUE AWARDS OF MANLY SPORT.

Inscribed on the Northwest corner of Memorial Stadium.
Demonstrated in the deeds of Tom Osborne.

Thanks, Tom.

From the Officers and Associates of
Union Bank & Trust Company.

UB UNION BANK & TRUST COMPANY®

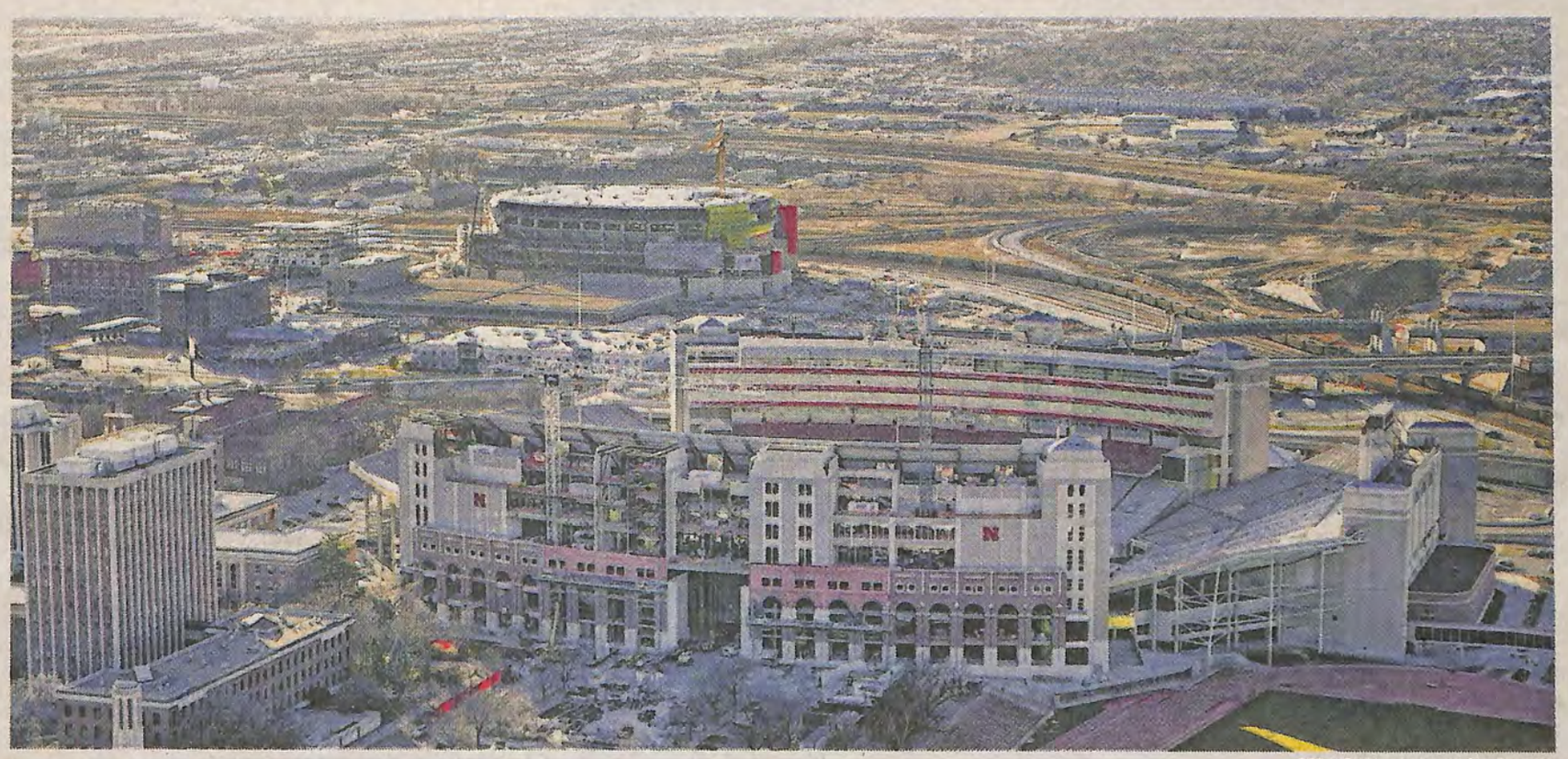
You Belong Here.℠

Member FDIC

Tom Osborne: The athletic director

STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION

Stadium expansion. A new arena. A new conference. Osborne had plenty on his plate during his tenure as Nebraska AD.



TED KIRK/Lincoln Journal Star file photo

Nebraska's biggest construction projects came alive under Tom Osborne's watch. Memorial Stadium will expand to approximately 90,000 seats, while Pinnacle Bank Arena will provide the university and city a gem. Both projects are scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2013.

Haymarket arena vote

Osborne played a key role in the city of Lincoln passing a $344 million development in the Haymarket district, which will be headlined by a new 16,000-seat arena that costs $159 million. The arena proposal received 56 percent of the vote in May of 2010. Osborne, Nebraska associate athletic director Marc Boehm and others have been looking for ways to give the arena, which will open in the fall of 2013, a more intimate feel. That includes putting students on the lower level near the visitors' bench. The arena will open a lot of new doors for the city. Nebraska submitted a bid to host the first and second rounds of the 2014 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament and should learn of the NCAA's decision soon. Nebraska is likely to bid to host NCAA Volleyball Tournament regionals. The Huskers recently played at CenturyLink Center Omaha for the regional semifinals and final.

Memorial Stadium expansion

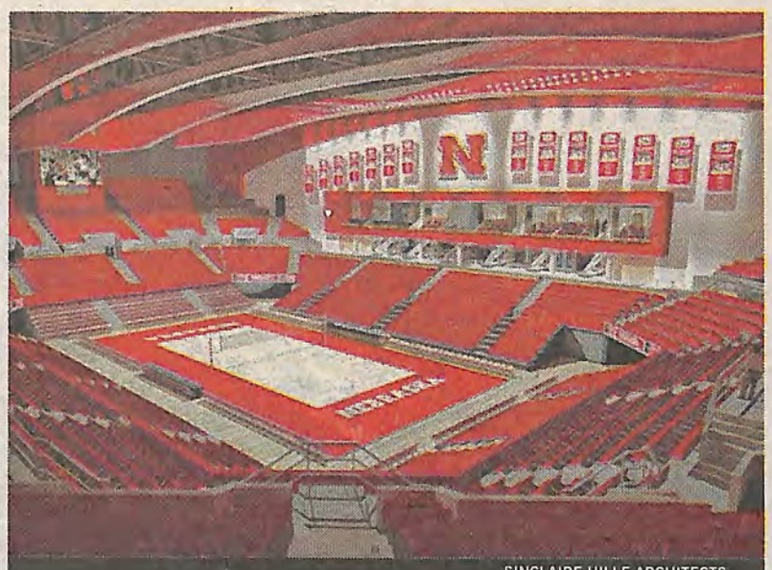
If you went to a game this season or have strolled past Memorial Stadium, you've noticed the framework of a project Osborne has helped guide. Work on the stadium expansion began in May of 2011 and is expected to be complete in July 2013. When completed, Memorial Stadium will have 6,000 additional seats (pushing it to approximately 90,000 seats), including 38 suites, more than 3,000 balcony seats and about 2,000 club seats. It also will include a grand lobby and research facilities. "If demand was soft and people didn't want the seats, we wouldn't do it," Osborne said when the project was first proposed. The East Stadium will greatly increase in width, with the addition hovering over the Husker Legacy statue. There will be escalators that go all the way to the upper deck so people will not have to climb the ramps to get to their seats.

The Student Life Complex

If the $8.7 million price tag and 50,000-square-foot floor plan didn't already send a message that the Nebraska athletic department is serious about academics, it only takes one step into the new Student Life Complex to get the picture. Lining the walls of the entrance to the main facility at Memorial Stadium are glass plaques celebrating NU's 16 Top Eight Award winners, given annually to the best student-athletes in the country. The facility, christened in a dedication ceremony in September 2010, was Osborne's first priority when he took the AD job in 2007. Student-athletes can now enjoy an academic facility that has nearly tripled in size and houses a spacious lobby area where Huskers can meet and study.

Completion of the Hendricks Training Center

In another effort to pour more resources into the basketball programs, NU cut the ribbon for the Hendricks Training Center in October 2011. The $18.7 million facility is state-of-the-art, has two practice courts, 63 televisions (including 401 inches of screens in the men's players' lounge), three-headed individual showers complete with built-in radio speakers, and iPads at each locker. Also completed in the fall of 2011 was an indoor practice facility for the Husker baseball and softball teams.



SINCLAIRE HILLE ARCHITECTS

Devaney Sports Center remodeling

When the new arena got the green light, NU officials looked for other ways to use the Devaney Sports Center. In September 2010, Nebraska and an outside design team pieced together an estimated $27 million project to transform the current home of Nebraska basketball into the volleyball team's future digs. Once renovations are complete, the Devaney Center will be a mix of new and old. The volleyball team, which played its final season at the NU Coliseum, will move to the Devaney Center in 2013. "When I saw the first set of drawings, the first thing I thought was, 'This is a new version of the Coliseum,'" NU volleyball coach John Cook said last summer.

THE MOVE

June 11, 2010

Osborne and Nebraska Chancellor Harvey Perlman quarterbacked one of the biggest moves in the history of the university — NU joining the Big Ten Conference, which was announced on June 11, 2010. NU's flirtation with leaving the Big 12 that spring led to some tense weeks filled with rumors of this school going here, that school going there and so on. Nebraska and Colorado bolted, and Jim Delany and the Big Ten welcomed Nebraska with open arms. "We are stronger today," the Big Ten commissioner said. "Nebraska is an unbelievable legacy. It will make us better than before they joined the Big Ten Conference." Said Perlman: "Neither Tom nor I felt there was a very long-term commitment for the Big 12. We thought our obligation to the University of Nebraska was to protect it from the vulnerability of being without a conference altogether. At that point, we re-engaged the leadership of the Big Ten." Nebraska became an official member of the Big Ten on July 1, 2011.

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTO

Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany (left) welcomes Tom Osborne and Nebraska to the Big Ten.

BIG COACHING HIRES

Tom Osborne's five-year run as athletic director included three key hires for the Nebraska athletic department:

Bo Pelini, football

With the decline of the Nebraska football program under Bill Callahan, Osborne was given a big challenge immediately into his tenure as athletic director — finding the next football coach. After firing Callahan in November of 2007, Osborne moved quickly and hired Bo Pelini just more than a week later. "Of greatest concern to me was defense, the ability to stop people," Osborne said when he introduced the defensive-minded Pelini. "As you know, occasionally you'll win a game if you give up 50 points, but you're not going to win very many." With the hiring came a return to some of Nebraska's roots. Ron Brown and Barney Cotton returned to the coaching staff and the walk-on program was revamped. Osborne was changing the culture. Pelini is about to finish his fifth season.

Darin Erstad, baseball

After another season in which Nebraska finished near the bottom of the Big 12 Conference in baseball, Osborne decided it was time for a change. He fired Mike Anderson in May 2011 and hired Darin Erstad, a former big-league star T.O. coached as a punter when Erstad was at Nebraska. "When you've played 14 years in the majors at a very high level, you have experience," Osborne said shortly after announcing the hire. "You know what good baseball looks like, and you know what isn't good. You've seen a lot of different managerial styles." Erstad, who was Anderson's volunteer assistant in 2011, led Nebraska to a 35-23 mark his first season and a trip to the Big Ten Tournament.

Tim Miles, men's basketball

Doc Sadler's personality and intensity made him a very likeable figure among those at Nebraska and the Husker fan base. But when the 2011-12 season went into a tailspin, the signs became very clear: Osborne needed to go in a new direction. "I've had to do some difficult things over my lifetime, and I'd say this may be as difficult as any of them," Osborne said in announcing Sadler's firing. "Doc Sadler is a good man. He's an honorable man, and I consider him to be a good friend." After a three-week search, Osborne lured Tim Miles from Colorado State, and the early results appear to be good. Miles was given a seven-year deal, which included $1.4 million in his first year, a considerable jump from what Sadler made. The salary pool for Miles' assistant coaches was increased by about $150,000 as well. It became quite clear Osborne was willing to put more resources into men's hoops.

Steven M. Sipple
LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

NEBRASKA WAS RIGHT PLACE FOR OSBORNE

The coach could have left for an NFL job, but the college game gave Osborne a chance to help players grow.

Imagine Tom Osborne in Seattle Seahawks garb, his ever-present ball cap, strolling NFL sidelines while matching wits with Joe Gibbs, Chuck Noll, Bill Walsh, et al.

It easily could've happened.

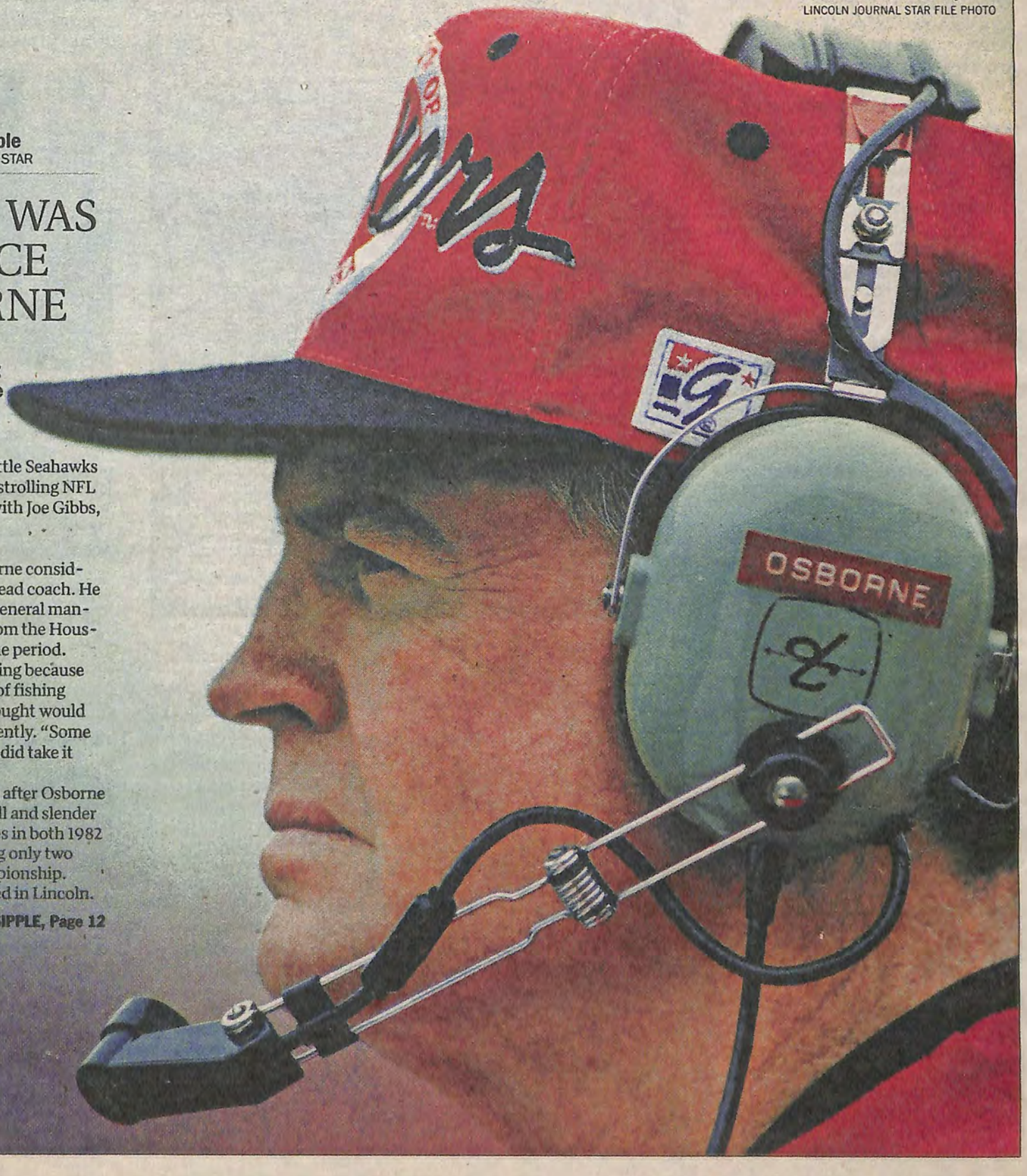
During the early 1980s, Osborne considered becoming the Seahawks' head coach. He met in Denver with the team's general manager. He also heard overtures from the Houston Oilers around that same time period.

"Seattle was a little bit tempting because the Pacific Northwest has a lot of fishing and outdoor activities that I thought would be attractive," Osborne said recently. "Some people talked to me, but I never did take it very seriously."

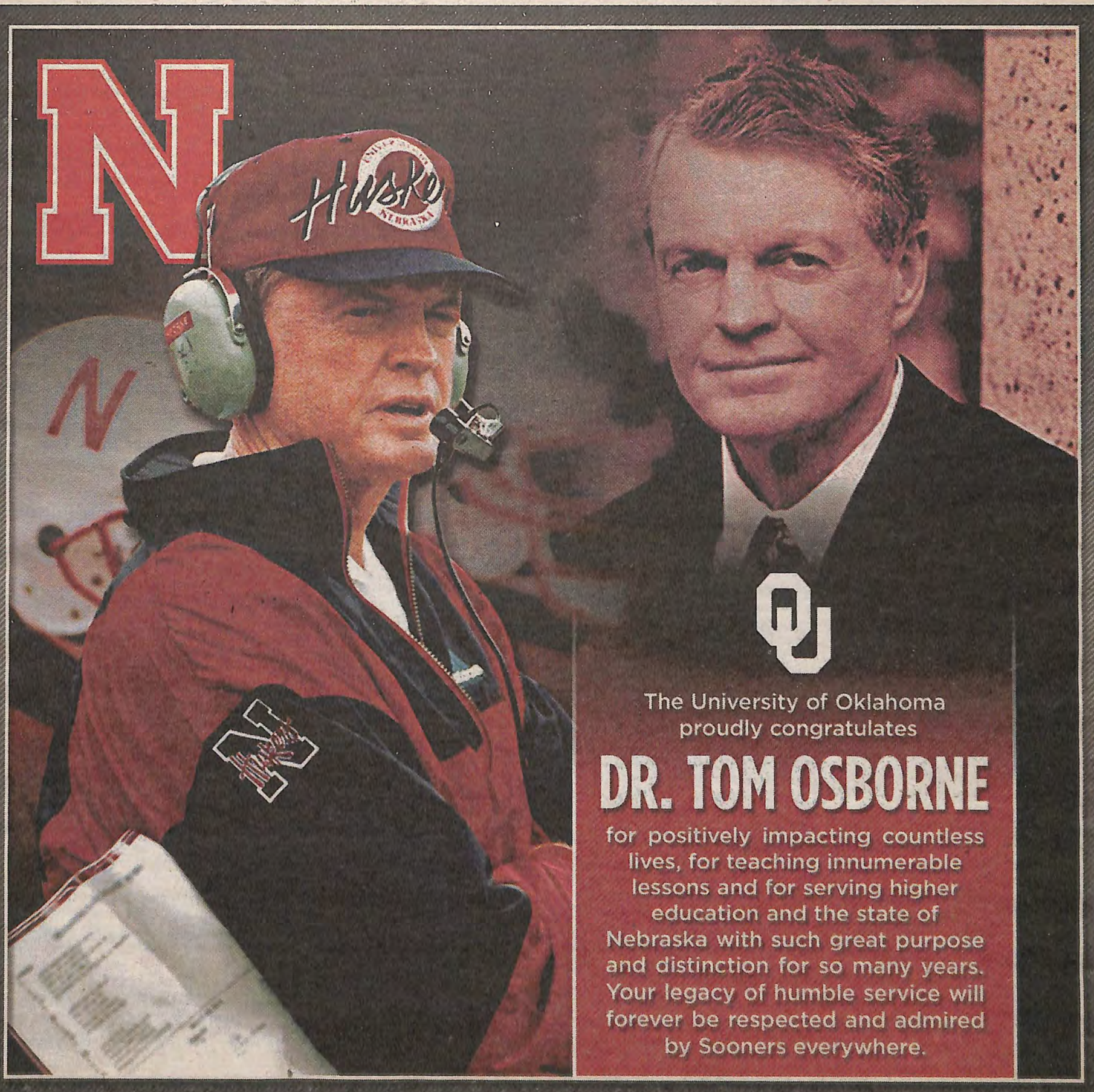
It's no surprise the NFL came after Osborne in the early 1980s. Led by the tall and slender redhead, Nebraska won 12 games in both 1982 and 1983, the latter squad falling only two points short of a national championship.

It's no surprise Osborne stayed in Lincoln.

See SIPPLE, Page 12



Tom Osborne was Nebraska's head coach for 25 years.
LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTO


N
Huskers
NEBRASKA
The University of Oklahoma
proudly congratulates
DR. TOM OSBORNE
for positively impacting countless lives, for teaching innumerable lessons and for serving higher education and the state of Nebraska with such great purpose and distinction for so many years. Your legacy of humble service will forever be respected and admired by Sooners everywhere.

Sipple

Continued from Page 10

The man belonged in the college game. Belonged at Nebraska. A native of Hastings, he belonged on the sideline at Memorial Stadium, squinting into the afternoon sun on splendid autumn Saturdays.

His reserved, humble, determined, hard-working nature fit our state's culture perfectly.

With a Ph.D in Educational Psychology, he belonged in the midst of young people, espousing the importance of education and helping his players become productive adults.

Osborne recalls a conversation with former Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry.

"He told me he didn't feel he ever impacted a player's character," Osborne said. "By the time he got them, the character was already pretty much formed. As a college coach, I felt you could make a difference in a player's life. There was an educational aspect I thought was important."

It was more than that, though.

"Personally, I just liked Nebraska," he said. "I liked the people here."

And the people liked Tom, especially after he won those three national championships (1994, 1995 and 1997) — but before that, too.

Osborne made a significant difference in the lives of countless players. But let's be real: He has made a difference in the lives of countless people, period, in the state and beyond, who admire and respect his core values of integrity, trust, respect and loyalty, and pardon me if I'm leaving out any of his virtues.

His sense of calm and quiet dignity permeates the athletic department and impacts the entire state.

No, he's not perfect. He would be the first to admit it.

Above all, he's unique.

Osborne, in my opinion, is unique because he was a statesman as much as he was a football coach. Rare is the football coach who can transition easily to life as a U.S. congressman.

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTO

Quarterback Brook Berringer gets instruction from coach Tom Osborne during a 1994 game.

Sure, he probably could've enjoyed success as an NFL coach. But he belonged in the college game. Belonged at Nebraska, in a program with unique challenges.

He clearly enjoys working with student-athletes. Thing is, he admired his players.

"You're talking about people with quite a bit of physical courage and a certain amount of moral courage," he said. "Because, when you go out there on that field, you're risking the wrath and criticism of thousands of people — if you fumble a punt or make a critical mistake. Lots of people wouldn't want to take that responsibility."

The head coach at Nebraska also had better have courage. Bob Devaney set a high bar for those who followed him, Osborne being the first.

Devaney became extremely popular with Nebraska fans because of his gregarious nature, but mostly because he won big. The Huskers lost only four games during his final four seasons (1969-72), and he led Big Red to national championships in 1970 and 1971. Osborne knew well there would be lofty expectations. Upon taking over the program, he said he initially was interested in "survival" — you know, pleasing the fans to the extent he wouldn't be fired.

"But I also wanted to make sure we did things the right way," he said. "I wanted to make sure there was a proper emphasis on academics."

Osborne also sought to run a clean program during a period when the NCAA lacked enough enforcement staff to properly police the college game.

"There were quite a few shenanigans going on around the country (during the 1970s)," Osborne said. "We didn't want to be part of that."

He always has wanted to make sure Nebraska treated its student-athletes well, especially in regard to meeting their academic needs. But it was more than that. The Huskers worked hard to provide what Osborne describes as "ancillary services" — nutrition, strength training, athletic medicine and the like.

Osborne is genuine in his concern for student-athletes' well-being. When various issues arise — and I've asked him about several matters in the last 25 years — he almost always considers first how the student-athletes will be impacted. Granted, that's how it should be, always. But in reality, many administrators' top concern is finances. Or something other than the student-athlete.

"It seems like so many of the Big Ten meetings we go to, they really revolve around dollars and television contracts — those kind of things," Osborne said.

Meanwhile, student-athletes reap no financial benefits, which for years has stuck in Osborne's craw.

Osborne is set to retire Jan. 1. He departs with concerns about the sport he so loves. He appreciates rule makers' emphasis on player safety, "yet it's pretty hard to play defense anymore because they've liberalized the use of the hands (of offensive players)."

What's more, defenders face an increasing amount of tackling restrictions.

"When you tackle somebody, it's awfully hard to know where your helmet is going to strike," he said. "If a guy ducks, and you're going at his midsection, and you hit him in the helmet, you get a 15-yard penalty.

"But I think the game is still popular," he added. "The college game is always more innovative. There always are more dimensions."

He noted, with a measure of pride, that the San Francisco 49ers recently installed the zone-read option play.

Once upon a time, Osborne had the option to bolt to the NFL. He chose to remain in our midst — right where he belongs.

Reach Steven M. Sipple at 402-473-7440 or ssipple@journalstar.com.

> "(Tom Landry) told me he didn't feel he ever impacted a player's character. By the time he got them, the character was already pretty much formed. As a college coach, I felt you could make a difference in a player's life. There was an educational aspect I thought was important."
>
> — Tom Osborne

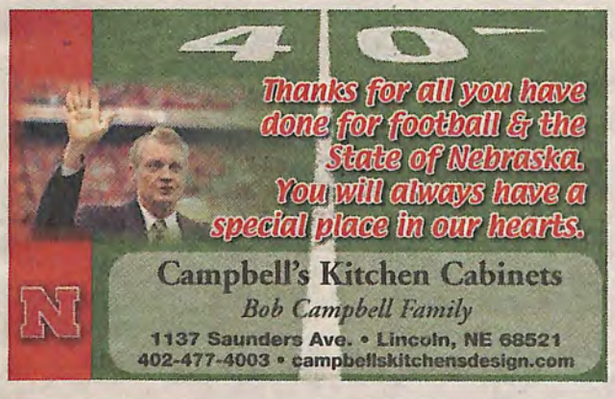
Thanks Tom... for leading the way in defining a legend.

Thanks Dr. Tom for teaching all our youth to be champions!

Charmaine Kearl
402.641.1195
TeamMate Mentor
HOME

Thanks Tom
for all your many years of dedication & excellence and for making winning look so easy in the game of football & the game of life.
LSI STAFFING
3814 Normal Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-261-6904

Thank you from the home of the future huskers!
aspen child development center & Aspen Montessori SCHOOL
9300 Heritage Lakes Drive • Lincoln, NE 68526
Center (402) 483-5511
Montessori (402) 570-5308


Thanks for all you have done for football & the State of Nebraska. You will always have a special place in our hearts.
Campbell's Kitchen Cabinets
Bob Campbell Family
1137 Saunders Ave. • Lincoln, NE 68521
402-477-4003 • campbellskitchensdesign.com

Thanks for the memories Tom!
SPIRIT OF AMERICA
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
325 N 52nd Street
Lincoln NE 68505
402-467-1102

Thanks Tom!
For Being a Mentor to All of Nebraska!
BIELENBERG BUILDERS, INC.
Jeff Bielenberg Owner
2550 Wemsha Court • Lincoln, Nebraska 68507
Office/Fax: 402-325-6382 • Cellular 402-217-2771
Email: bielenbergbuilders@neb.rr.com

Thanks Tom
Lincoln Federal SAVINGS BANK
We've been on your team since 1906.
www.lincolnfed.com
Member FDIC

Thank you Coach Osborne for all your years of service from all of us at Valentino's!
Vale N tino's
OFFICIAL PIZZA OF THE HUSKERS

Thanks Tom for all the Great Memories
Unite PRIVATE NETWORKS
866-91FIBER (402-817-1394)
www.UnitePrivateNetworks.com

Thanks Tom... for leading the way in defining a legend.

Tom Osborne
Thank you for being
ONE WITH COURAGE
and standing up for kids.

5025 Garland Street • Lincoln, NE
www.smvoices.org
Child Advocacy Center

40 Years of Excellence

1973

Now

GAS'N shop 1973

Git 'N Split Now

Thank You!

g|m
GARY MICHAELS
CLOTHIERS

TOM

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THE VERY BEST IN YOUR RETIREMENT. YOUR LEGACY WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND NATIONALLY. GOD BLESS YOU!

6000 Village Dr. #500 • Lincoln • 402-423-7848
www.garymichaels.com

Thanks, Tom, for helping make Nebraska a great place to live and work!

JTL Truck Driver Training
402-932-0000 / TF 866-486-4446
10008 Sapp Bros Jr, Omaha, NE 68138
www.jtlcdltraining.com

JTL

Thanks Coach!

Mike Thomalla
402-430-8122
mike.thomalla@woodsbros.com
WOODS BROS REALTY

Thanks Tom!

LARRY CORBETT
Multi-Million Dollar Club
Top 10% Since 1993
Office: (402) 434-3800
Fax: (402) 434-3801
Cellular: (402) 430-8496
larry.corbett@woodsbros.com • www.LarryCorbett.WoodsBros.com

WOODS BROS REALTY
7141 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Thanks Coach!

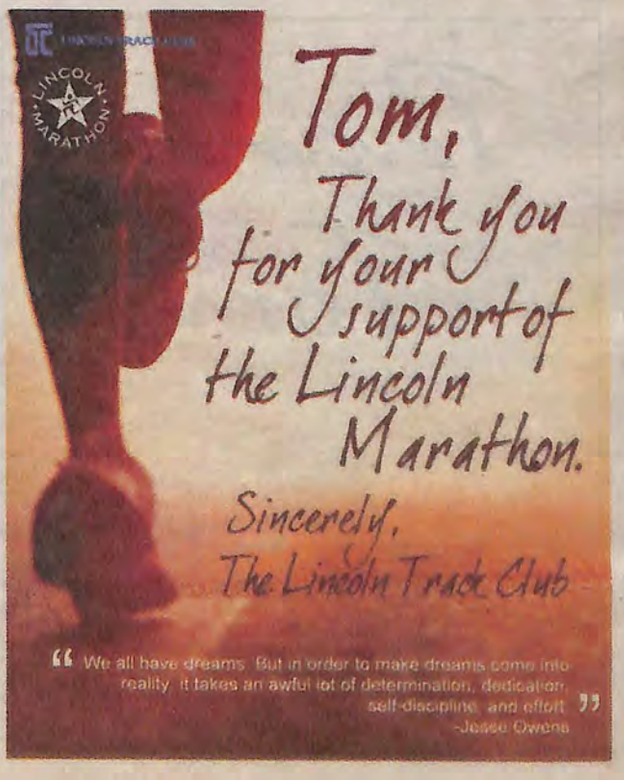
Steve Taylor

402-429-0809
HOME
stevetaylor@homerealestate.com

"The odds are always against you no matter what your previous history is. You have to overcome the tendency to relax." Tom Osborne

Spas Plus wishes you a "relaxing" retirement!

Thanks Tom for being a Leader & a Legend!
402-421-8401
1145 N 47th Street Lincoln, NE 68503
spasplusoflincoln.com
SPAS plus of Lincoln
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE!

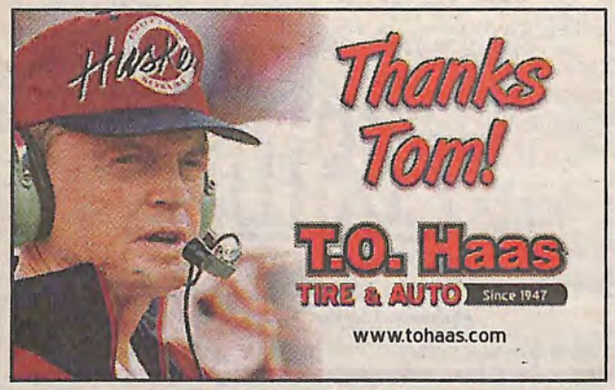


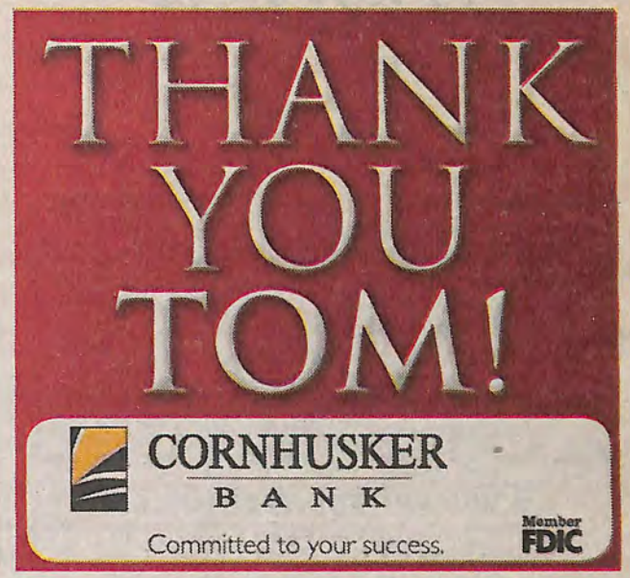
Tom,
Thank you for your support of the Lincoln Marathon.
Sincerely,
The Lincoln Track Club

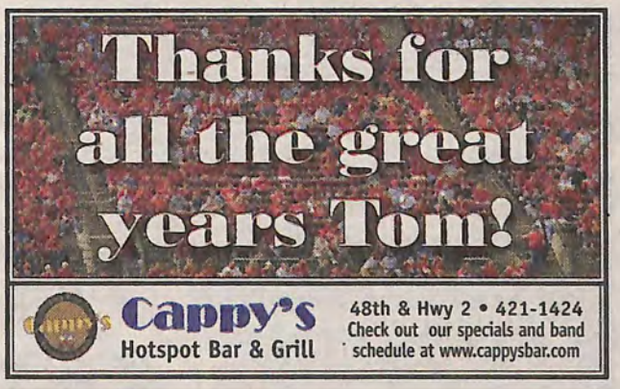
"We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort."
-Jesse Owens

Thanks Tom...

for leading the way in defining a legend.






Thanks for all the great years Tom!
Cappy's
Hotspot Bar & Grill
48th & Hwy 2 • 421-1424
Check out our specials and band schedule at www.cappysbar.com

In appreciation for everything Tom and Nancy Osborne have done for the state of Nebraska, the local community, and our youth, I would love to donate up to $500 to

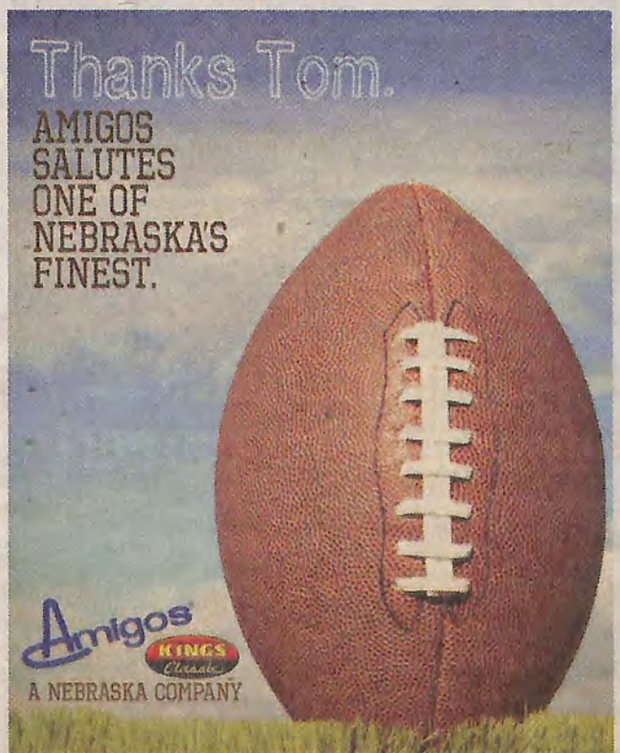
TEAMMATES™
MENTORING PROGRAM
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

for anyone that mentions this tribute and closes a sale with me during 2013.

Thanks Tom and GO HUSKERS!

www.SellingLincoln.com

Ron Herms
LINCOLN FIRST REALTY



Thanks Tom... for leading the way in defining a legend.

THANKS TOM!

PRICED RITE AUTO SALES

WWW.PRICEDRITEAUTO.COM

901 N. 48th, Lincoln · 402-475-1335

NEBRASKA AUTO GLASS

212 S. 19TH ST.
LINCOLN, NE 68510
402-474-9000

THANKS TOM!

$50 OFF YOUR WINDSHIELD DEDUCTIBLE

*Valid only with Coupon

$25 OFF NEW WINDSHIELD, BACKGLASS, SIDE WINDOW, OR ANY AUTO GLASS REPLACEMENT

*Valid only with Coupon

Tom, Thanks for everything!

Quality • Honesty • Value

Let our experts show you why you deserve the best.

We treat your home like it was our own, providing you with the same honesty and superiority we expect ourselves. We value the strength of a handshake and don't rest until you are satisfied.

CUSTOM

Cooling & Heating, Inc.

12000 East "O" • Lincoln • Phone: 402-489-9227

Professional Service. All Day. Every Day.

www.customcooling.net info@customcooling.net

Thank you, Dr. Osborne, your legacy will always make us proud to call Nebraska 'home'.

HOME REAL ESTATE

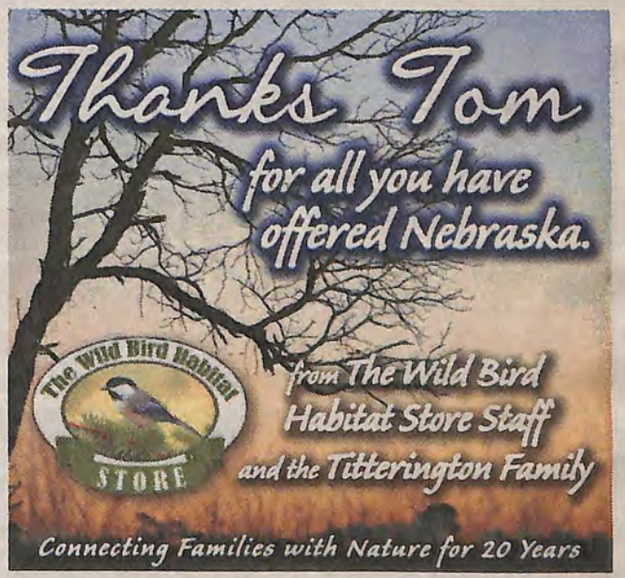
Mortgage · Title · Insurance

Call me for all your housing needs

Karen Mayo ~ 402-641-5247

karen.mayo@homerealestate.com

Celebrating your dedication to Nebraska and leadership of Husker Nation.
Congratulations on a great career.
net Sports
A service of NET Television
Nebraska's PBS station
netNebraska.org


Thanks Tom
for all you have offered Nebraska.
The Wild Bird Habitat STORE
from The Wild Bird Habitat Store Staff and the Titterington Family
Connecting Families with Nature for 20 Years

Thank You Tom

for being a positive role model. We admire how you put others before yourself.

LIBERTY FIRST CREDIT UNION

Banking With Purpose.™

At Liberty First we strive towards the same goals by putting people before profits.

402.465.1000 :: www.libertyfirstcu.com

501 N 46th Street, Lincoln, NE 68503
5101 N 27th Street, Lincoln, NE 68521
6001 S 56th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516

Federally Insured By NCUA

Tom,

CONGRATULATIONS on an outstanding career!

from all of us at Commerical Investment Properties

CIP www.RentCIP.com

...service
...leadership
...integrity

Because it's more than winning.

THANKS COACH OSBORNE!

Pershing Center

SMG Worldwide Entertainment and Conference Venue Management

Pinnacle Bank Arena

Don Walton
LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

T.O. EFFECTIVE CONGRESSMAN, NOT POLITICIAN

It was a whole new ballgame.

When Tom Osborne decided to step into politics in 2000, swapping X's and O's for EPA and HHS, and trading the university classroom for the campaign playing field, he was on unfamiliar turf.

Osborne quickly mastered his new job as a congressman in 2001, swinging into action in the House to represent western and central Nebraska's interests, influencing farm policy and rural economic development, pushing for high-speed Internet access, centering on the problems youths encounter.

A new playbook.

At the same time, he constantly touched base with his constituents, traveling the sprawling 3rd District when he was back home. Osborne worked at his job and he campaigned hard, even when everyone knew his re-election was a slam dunk.

But he never mastered — or even cared to play — the political game.

"I don't really understand party politics very well," Osborne said at one point. "It has no appeal for me."

Osborne easily won three terms in the House, but when he reached for the governorship in 2006, suddenly he was playing on Gov. Dave Heineman's home field.

Heineman, a partisan operative and Republican Party stalwart, had honed the skills of political strategist and tactician over a lifetime. And he was the incumbent governor.

And he hammered Osborne for not opposing legislation that allowed the children of illegal immigrants who were settled in Nebraska to pay resident college tuition rates.

The Republican Party establishment tilted sharply, but quietly, in Heineman's favor, recognizing that Osborne would not be the kind of governor who would tend to the party's needs.

And that was all she wrote.

Osborne had announced his gubernatorial candidacy in his hometown of Hastings on a Saturday afternoon in April at about the same hour his football teams used to tee up the football, suggesting he'd "like to take a shot" at tackling divisions in the state, population loss in most counties and unfulfilled economic potential.

An iconic figure, he was besieged for autographs and snapshots everywhere he went.

It even happened in Washington when he arrived there in 2001 as the new congressman who had guided the Huskers to three national championships. Walking down the corridors of the Capitol and a House office building in the January week of his swearing-in at the age of 63, he was instantly recognized and greeted by fellow congressmen and women and members of their staffs.

One of the most striking features of Osborne's years in Congress and as a candidate was to see the state's most recognized figure at events in Nebraska wearing a name tag identifying him.

And, in a way, just by donning that name tag, he told us a little something about who he is.

Reach Don Walton at 402-473-7248 or at dwalton@journalstar.com.

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTO

Tom Osborne won the 2000 3rd District election with 82 percent of the vote. He remained in Congress until his unsuccessful run for governor in 2006.

Football, then politics

Others who hit the campaign trail after football:

Dwight Eisenhower, Army: Played running back and linebacker before becoming the 34th U.S. president.

Gerald Ford, Michigan: Former offensive lineman was the 38th president of the United States.

Heath Shuler, Tennessee: Played quarterback in the NFL before becoming a North Carolina congressman.

Jack Kemp, Occidental College: Was New York congressman and U.S. housing secretary under George W. Bush.

Lynn Swann, USC: Played wideout for the Trojans and Pittsburgh Steelers; ran for Pennsylvania governor in '06.

Ronald Reagan, Eureka College: Credentials include quarterback, California governor and U.S. president.

Steve Largent, Tulsa: Star wideout was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Oklahoma.

J.C. Watts, Oklahoma: Played quarterback against Osborne's teams before becoming a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995-2003.

Coach Bud Wilkinson, Oklahoma: Ran as a Republican for the U.S. Senate in 1964.

HUSKERS HELPING THE HOMELESS

THE BEST DEFENSE N AGAINST HUNGER

Thanks Tom for your support!

Save the Date: **October 5, 2013** (NU vs. Illinois)

Matt Talbot
Kitchen & Outreach

2121 N 27th St. • PO Box 80935 • Lincoln, NE 68501
402-477-4116 • www.mtkserves.org

Ken Hambleton
LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ken Hambleton covered the Tom Osborne-led Huskers from 1976 through Osborne's retirement as coach in 1997.

OSBORNE KNEW HOW TO WIN OVER PLAYERS, COACHES AND MEDIA

Tom Osborne and I had a loud, long, veins-sticking-out-in-your-neck argument after practice one day.

The issue was about access to players for interviews.

Osborne snap-closed the 20-minute debate with "I'm here to win games." I stormed away. He ran his laps.

The next day, like the day after all the other heated confrontations, he would be the first to approach and say "We OK on this?"

How could I say "No"?

Here was one of the greatest coaches turning the page, moving on to the next item.

Two sleepy-eyed reporters would meet Osborne early the morning after bowl games for one more story before putting Husker football to bed until recruit signing day.

Year after year at 6 a.m. it was the same. Osborne alone with a film projector in the ballroom at the Sheraton Bal Harbor or the Scottsdale Inn or the Fountainebleau Hotel, watching game film and looking at notes on recruits.

The next game, the next season preoccupied his mind once the bowl game was over.

Even the morning after winning his first national championship Jan. 1, 1995, he was reviewing film from the night before and getting ready to fly to meet recruits.

Coach of the year awards, national recognition and runs at national titles year after year ... none of that mattered any more than the next game, the next opponent.

As for awards, he would usually name four other coaches who had great seasons and, as for national titles, he'd mention two other teams with valid arguments.

Osborne's idea was simple. Win.

He did. He knew that to win games he had to win people, win practices, win coaches.

He was eloquent and touching and as hurt as anyone when everybody's hero, Brook Berringer, died and hundreds came to the funeral. He was the same when only a handful of former teammates showed for the funeral for Andra Franklin, who died alone and mostly forgotten.

When streaking was a big thing on the NU campus, Osborne quietly and naively suggested to his players that they could run laps inside the stadium with him.

When players fought, he'd often remind them that the opponents deserved such violence.

He won on the field and off the field. He won fans and he picked up fans in the media.

To win the media, he gave access. Nothing more precious than information for us ink-stained wretches. And for Osborne, there was nothing better than others understanding what he was doing and why. The more information we had, the less chance we had to complain about starting quarterbacks, play calling and results on the field.

Members of the national media often harped on the dinosaur offense that couldn't win the big ones, until Osborne started winning all the big ones. He'd often conduct interviews while doing laps around Memorial Stadium.

Celebrating
Success
Bringing out the best in people. We get that. Congratulations on your retirement Dr. Osborne!
Madonna is a nationally recognized leader in brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke and pediatric rehabilitation programs. When illness or injury brings life to a halt, we help you move forward. At Madonna...Now you can.®
Lincoln, Nebraska • www.madonna.org • 800.676.5448
MADONNA
Rehabilitation Hospital

The first lap, "Coach, what about Colorado?" The next lap, "Well, they're pretty good." Another lap, "Is your team speed up to the Buffs' defense?" The next lap, "We feel we have some answers." And on and on it went.

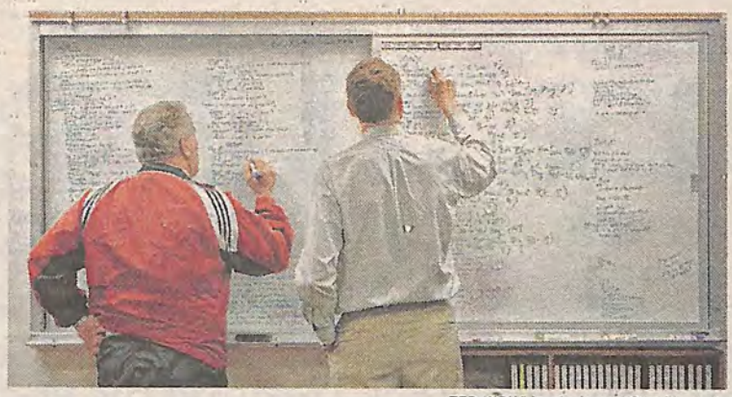
He allowed me to attend his coaches' and players' meetings for five weeks late in the 1997 season so I'd understand more.

Three times a week, I'd join the meetings at 7 a.m., when it was cold and dark outside.

Osborne would open staff meetings with a prayer.

There were reports on injuries, recruits, player situations with family and grades, travel, and often a digest of the latest local newspaper stories about the Huskers from offensive line coach Milt Tenopir.

For the next 90 minutes, practice planning and game planning. After that, the offense and defense broke up and the next two hours, Osborne gave a lecture and daily tutorial on the offense, while Craig Bohl would try to keep order as Charlie McBride and George Darlington debated defensive strategies. As it was proved, the offense was a dictatorship and the defense a democracy bordering on chaos.



TED KIRK/Lincoln Journal Star file photo

Tom Osborne (right) and Milt Tenopir go over some offensive plays during the 1997 national championship season.

Tenopir would often have to elbow me when Osborne would ask, "Ken, why are we running the 41-pitch options with the single tight end?" Ron Brown would smile and help me review the pop quiz for receivers that day. Turner Gill gave me the same daily tests that quarterbacks took. Day after day, I failed. But Osborne never yelled, never kicked me out of class. He'd start over and explain the zone-blocking schemes for a fullback trap and why they'd never use it against Kansas' shifting defensive front.

When I'd suggest a Statue of Liberty play or the annexation of Puerto Rico, Osborne would say "Sound plays work. Unsound plays don't work very often and never for very long."

He knew every play his Huskers would run each week. His staff knew the plays and the players would practice each play dozens of times.

"You learn to be prepared for everything," Frank Solich said.

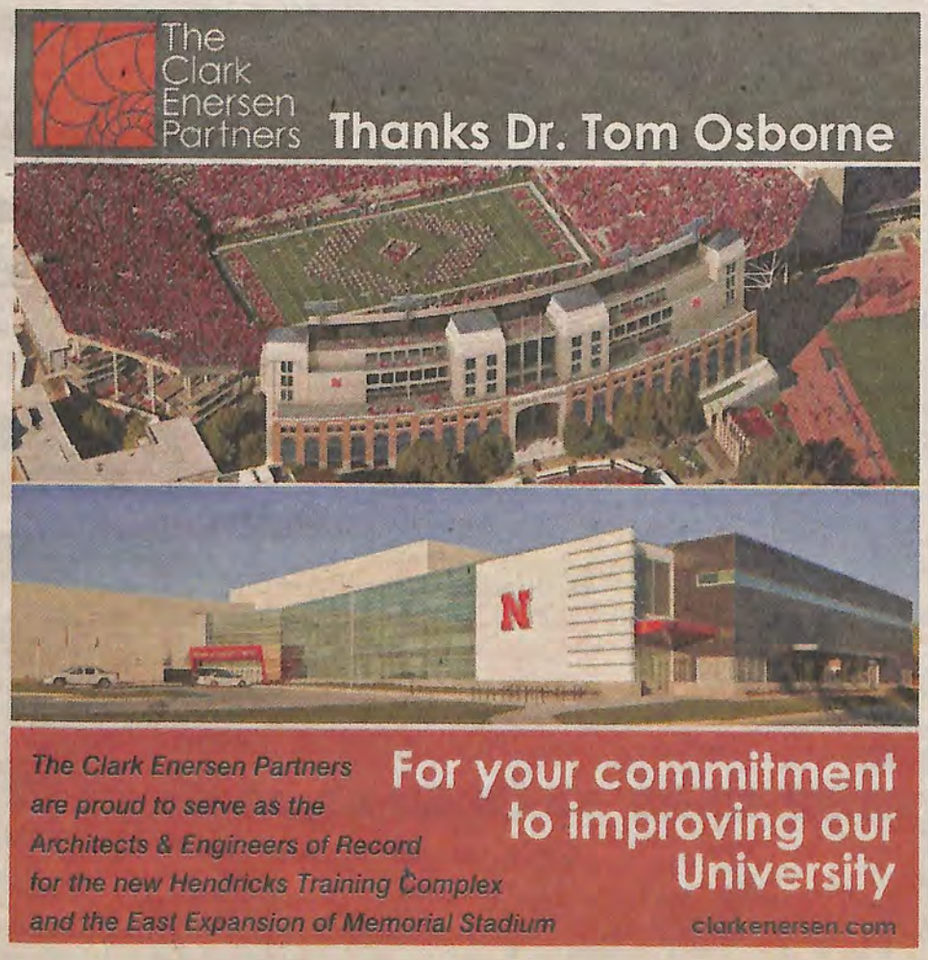
Osborne tried to prepare for everything, from the national media onslaught about national titles and player problems to the local guys wondering about the sixth-string quarterback on the depth chart.

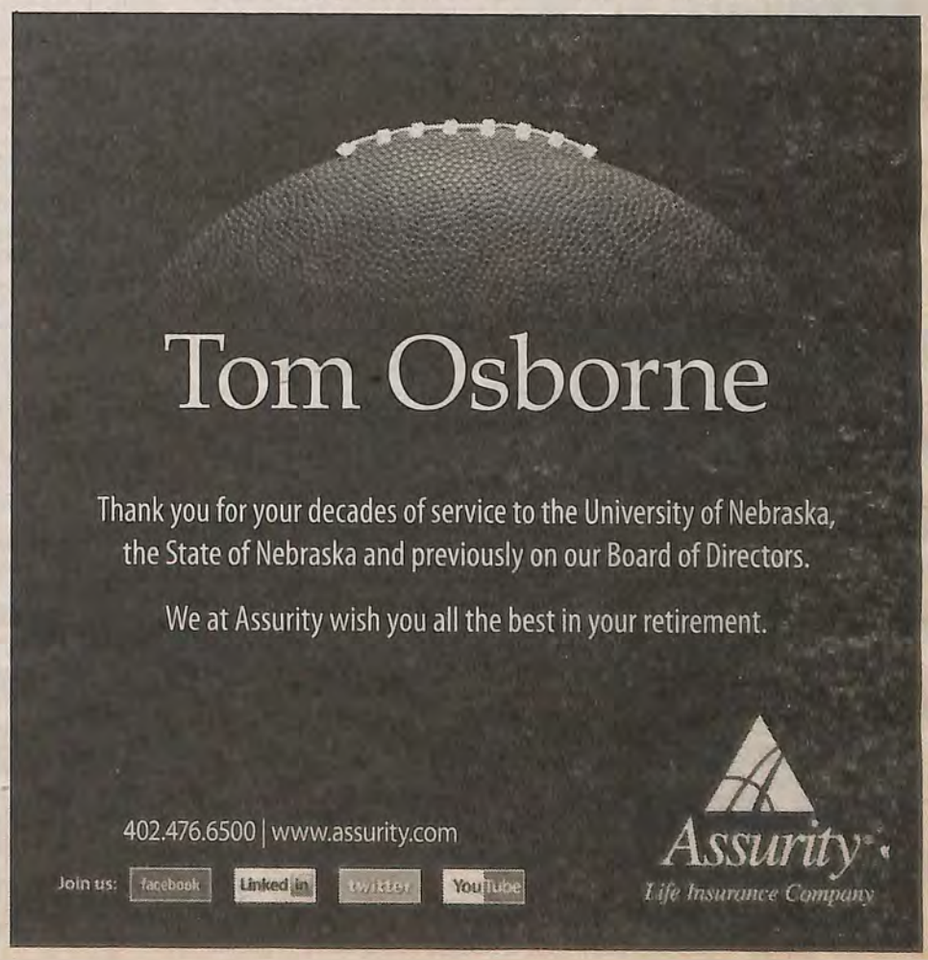
From Lawrence Phillips to Christian Peter to Tyrone Williams, Osborne believed in keeping his players close to the program because he could do better than jail. He believed Proposition 48 players (academic casualties) were better off at Nebraska than in a junior college. He believed in people and he certainly believed in his players and his purpose. He believed in walk-ons being treated like Tommie Frazier and Neil Smith.

He believes in God. Whether it is Psalms 111:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," or letting go of the past, as in 2 Corinthians, or denying one's self, as in Matthew, Osborne found his base.

"This is not a one-man show," he said. "I'm just a coach, trying to win games."

Reach Ken Hambleton at 402-473-7313 or khambleton@journalstar.com.


The Clark Enersen Partners
Thanks Dr. Tom Osborne
The Clark Enersen Partners are proud to serve as the Architects & Engineers of Record for the new Hendricks Training Complex and the East Expansion of Memorial Stadium
For your commitment to improving our University
clarkenersen.com


Tom Osborne
Thank you for your decades of service to the University of Nebraska, the State of Nebraska and previously on our Board of Directors.
We at Assurity wish you all the best in your retirement.
402.476.6500 | www.assurity.com
Join us: facebook Linked in twitter YouTube
Assurity
Life Insurance Company

A look at how Tom Osborne stacks among his coaching peers.

OSBORNE:

Winningest college football coaches (Major programs)

Bobby Bowden
Florida State
377

Bear Bryant
Alabama
323

Pop Warner
Stanford
319

Amos Stagg
Yale
314

Joe Paterno
Penn State
298*

LaVell Edwards
BYU
257

Tom Osborne
Nebraska
255

Lou Holtz
Notre Dame
249

Woody Hayes
Ohio State
238

*Does not include wins from 1998-2011.

We track every Husker game under Tom Osborne in order.
- WIN
- LOSS
- TIE

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

9-2-1 (4-2-1)

Conf.: T2nd

AP	Coach
7	T11

— Final rankings

1973

Overview: The Tom Osborne era began with wins against No. 10 UCLA and No. 14 N.C. State. The Huskers won three more games against ranked foes, defeating No. 18 Kansas, No. 17 Colorado, and No. 8 Texas in the Cotton Bowl. NU broke a 3-3 tie against the Longhorns thanks to second-half touchdown runs by Ritch Bahe and Tony Davis.

1974

Overview: Two of NU's three losses came to unranked opponents. But a 56-0 thumping of No. 13 Kansas sparked the Huskers to five straight wins leading into the season finale against No. 1 Oklahoma. The Sooners scored 21 unanswered points to avoid the upset. Nebraska landed in New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl, where it edged Florida 13-10.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

9-3 (5-2)

Conf.: T2nd

AP	Coach
9	7

1975

Overview: A 10-0 start pushed the Huskers to No. 2 the AP poll. That included a 30-7 victory at No. 12 Missouri on Nov. 1. But the Huskers dropped their final two games, losing at No. 7 Oklahoma 35-10 and to No. 7 Arizona State 17-14 in the Fiesta Bowl. Oklahoma's loss to unranked Kansas gave the Huskers a share of Osborne's first Big Eight championship.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

10-2 (6-1)

Conf.: T1st

AP	Coach
9	9

1976

Overview: The Huskers began the season atop the polls, but dropped with a season-opening 6-6 tie at unranked LSU. NU won its next five games before losing to No. 17 Missouri. After losses to Iowa State and No. 8 Oklahoma, the Huskers treated themselves to a 68-3 win at Hawaii. That was followed by a win in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

9-3-1 (4-3)

Conf.: T4th

AP	Coach
9	T7

1977

Overview: A home loss to Washington State to open the season dropped the Huskers out of the polls, but NU rebounded with a 31-24 victory against No. 4 Alabama. The Huskers beat No. 7 Colorado 33-15 and No. 14 North Carolina 21-17 in the Liberty Bowl. Behind backup QB Randy Garcia, the Huskers rallied with two late touchdowns.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

9-3 (5-2)

Conf.: T2nd

AP	Coach
12	10

1978

Overview: After losing to No. 1 Alabama 20-3 to open the season, the Huskers reeled off nine straight victories. That included one of the Huskers' biggest home victories — a 17-14 triumph against No. 1 Oklahoma. The Huskers lost to unranked Missouri the following week. That was followed by a 31-24 loss to the Sooners in the Orange Bowl.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

9-3 (6-1)

Conf.: T1st

AP	Coach
8	8

1979

Overview: The Huskers won their first 10 games, a stretch that included a 42-17 win against No. 18 Penn State. The No. 3 Huskers traveled to No. 8 Oklahoma on Nov. 24, but they couldn't slow down star running back Billy Sims, who rushed for 247 yards in a 17-14 OU victory. The Huskers lost to Houston in the Cotton Bowl.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

10-2 (6-1)

Conf.: 2nd

AP	Coach
9	7

1980

Overview: No. 16 Florida State scored 15 unanswered points en route to an 18-14 win in Lincoln on Oct. 4. The Huskers won seven of their final eight games, including a 31-17 victory against Mississippi State in the Sun Bowl. NU held eight opponents to nine points or fewer.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

10-2 (6-1)

Conf.: 2nd

AP	Coach
7	7

1981

Overview: A 30-24 loss to No. 3 Penn State dropped the Huskers to 1-2 and out of the polls for a two-week stretch. However, Nebraska worked its way back to No. 4, and earned a Big Eight title and Osborne's second victory against OU. The Huskers fell 22-15 to Clemson in the Orange Bowl. The victory gave the Tigers the national title.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

9-3 (7-0)

Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
11	9

1982

Overview: Todd Blackledge led No. 8 Penn State past No. 2 Nebraska 27-24 at State College, Pa., early in the season. But the Huskers rebounded with 10 straight victories, capped by a 21-20 victory against No. 13 LSU in the Orange Bowl. The season included a 28-24 victory against No. 11 Oklahoma.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12 | 13

12-1 (7-0)

Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
3	3

1983

Overview: No. 1 Nebraska cruised past No. 4 Penn State 44-6 in the Kickoff Classic and looked unstoppable throughout the season behind Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar. But Husker fans know all too well about the heartbreak that followed in the 31-30 Orange Bowl loss to No. 5 Miami. NU's national title hopes were dashed.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12 | 13

12-1 (7-0)

Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
2	2

1984

Overview: Unranked Syracuse stunned No. 1 Nebraska 17-9 early in the season, one year after the Huskers crushed the Orange 63-7. The loss ended NU's 24-game regular-season winning streak. Nebraska lost its second game as the No. 1 team, to No. 4 Oklahoma 17-7. The Huskers rebounded with a 28-10 win against LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

10-2 (6-1)

Conf.: T1st

AP	Coach
4	3

1985

Overview: No. 17 Florida State handed No. 10 Nebraska a 17-13 home loss in the season opener. The Huskers dropped to 18th in the AP poll, but worked their way back to No. 2 before a Nov. 23 trip to Oklahoma. The No. 5 Sooners' rushing attack was too much in a 27-7 OU victory. Nebraska lost to No. 5 Michigan in the Fiesta Bowl.

WIN TRACKER: 1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

9-3 (6-1)

Conf.: 2nd

AP	Coach
11	10

Top winning percentage (at least 200 games coached)

Tom Osborne
255-49-3
.836

Robert Neyland
173-31-12
.829

Fielding Yost
191-34-11
.813

Bear Bryant
323-85-17
.780

Bo Schembechler
171-49-10
.765

Most nine-win seasons

Tom Osborne
Nebraska
25

Bobby Bowden
Florida State
24

Bear Bryant
Alabama
20

Joe Paterno
Penn State
20

LaVell Edwards
BYU
16

Consistency was the theme of Tom Osborne's teams during his 25-year run as Nebraska's head coach. The Huskers won at least nine games each season under Osborne, and in 17 of those, finished in the Associated Press top 10. No program has won back-to-back national championships since Osborne led the Huskers to titles in 1994 and 1995.

THE COACH

1986

Overview: No. 8 Nebraska began the season with a 34-17 win against No. 11 Florida State. NU didn't play another ranked opponent until Nov. 22, when No. 3 Oklahoma visited Lincoln. The Sooners rallied from a 17-7 deficit to win 20-17. In the Sugar Bowl, Nebraska pulled away in the second half for a 30-15 win against No. 5 LSU.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

10-2 (5-2)
Conf.: 3rd

AP	Coach
5	4

1987

Overview: The Big Eight title came down to a Nov. 21 meeting against you know who. No. 1 Nebraska. No. 2 Oklahoma. The Sooners racked up 419 rushing yards and 17 second-half points en route to a 17-7 victory. The Huskers rebounded with a 24-7 win at Colorado before losing to No. 3 Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl 31-28.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

10-2 (6-1)
Conf.: 2nd

AP	Coach
6	6

1988

Overview: The No. 2 Huskers were unable to keep up with No. 5 UCLA at Pasadena, Calif. But the Huskers got back on track to go unbeaten in conference play. That included a 7-3 victory at No. 9 Oklahoma in the regular-season finale. NU could not carry the momentum into the Orange Bowl, as No. 2 Miami handed the Huskers a 23-3 defeat.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

11-2 (7-0)
Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
10	10

1989

Overview: The second-ranked Huskers were cruising entering a Nov. 4 game at No. 2 Colorado. But Gerry Gdowski's pass intended for Jon Bostick in the end zone was batted away and the Buffs prevailed 27-21. Nebraska was sent to the Fiesta Bowl to play No. 5 Florida State, which won 41-17.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

10-2 (6-1)
Conf.: 2nd

AP	Coach
11	12

1990

Overview: The season did not end well for the Huskers, who lost three of their final four games, including losses to OU and co-national champ Georgia Tech in the Citrus Bowl. The Huskers finished 24th in the Associated Press poll, the Huskers' lowest final ranking under Osborne. The Huskers held six opponents to nine points or fewer.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

9-3 (5-2)
Conf.: 3rd

AP	Coach
24	17

1991

Overview: The Huskers shared the Big Eight title with Colorado, fittingly, considering NU's trip to No. 15 Colorado ended in a 19-19 tie. NU secured a trip to the Orange Bowl with a 19-14 win against No. 19 Oklahoma, but the Huskers lost to Miami 22-0. After a home loss to Washington, the Huskers didn't lose again at Memorial Stadium until 1998.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

9-2-1 (6-0-1)
Conf.: T1st

AP	Coach
15	16

1992

Overview: The Huskers got rolling, trouncing No. 8 Colorado 52-7 and No. 13 Kansas 49-7. But the Huskers were stunned the following week at Ames, Iowa, losing 19-10 to Iowa State. It was Osborne's only loss to a team that finished with a losing record. The Huskers clinched the conference title in Tokyo with a 38-24 win against K-State.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

9-3 (6-1)
Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
14	14

1993

Overview: Thanks to the emergence of freshman Tommie Frazier, the Huskers ran the table during the regular season, including victories against No. 20 Colorado and No. 16 Oklahoma. The No. 2 Huskers entered the Orange Bowl as double-digit underdogs to No. 1 Florida State. The Huskers hung tough, but FSU emerged victorious 18-16.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

11-1 (7-0)
Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
3	3

1994

Overview: Behind Frazier and Brook Berringer, the Huskers put together the first of three national championship runs under T.O. The No. 3 Huskers overwhelmed No. 2 Colorado 24-7 en route to the Big Eight title. In Miami, the Huskers rallied to beat the Canes 24-17 behind a pair of Corey Schlesinger TDs, erasing years of frustration against the U.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13

13-0 (7-0)
Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
1	1

1995

Overview: Only one opponent played Nebraska within 23 points. NU defeated No. 8 K-State 49-25, No. 7 Colorado 44-21 and No. 10 Kansas 41-3. Then came highlight reel after highlight reel in a 62-24 Fiesta Bowl victory against Florida. The 1995 Huskers are considered one of the most dominating teams in college football history.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

12-0 (7-0)
Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
1	1

1996

Overview: NU's 26-game winning streak came to an end in the Arizona desert vs. Arizona State. NU bounced back, winning their next nine games and positioned itself for another national title run. But the Huskers' hopes were derailed in the Big 12 title game. The Huskers lost to unranked Texas 37-27 before topping Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11
13

11-2 (8-0)
Conf.: 1st*

AP	Coach
6	6

* Finish in Big 12 North

1997

Overview: After winning the program's first Big 12 title, Osborne announced he is retiring following the Orange Bowl. The Huskers send Osborne out a winner with a 42-17 win against No. 3 Tennessee. The win was impressive enough to move the Huskers to the top spot in the coaches' poll, giving NU a share of the national title, Osborne's third.

WIN TRACKER
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13

13-0 (8-0)
Conf.: 1st

AP	Coach
2	1

Cindy Lange-Kubick
LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

NOTHING SAID NEBRASKA MORE THAN THE HUMBLE MAN WEARING A HEADSET

I grew up with Tom Osborne on the sidelines and in my living room, long-legged and gum-chewing and as steady as Chimney Rock.

A coach from my father's era, the two of them taking me through my teenage years — the wide-tie, sideburn-loving '70s — and all the decades beyond, with the comforting reassurance that a grown-up was behind the wheel.

I never wrote a fan letter to the head-coach-turned-athletic director, but I was there for the Tunnel Walk sendoff this fall, tears falling, up in the nosebleed section with 85,000 of my fellow fans as our guy trotted across the field named for him.

The only Nebraskan with a football field and an expressway — and a legacy that will outlast them both.

Here in the middle of the country with the corn and the cows and the cloud-touching capitol, I understand that those are the things that define my state for much of the fly-over-us, drive-through-us rest of the country.

And I understand this, too: None of them say Nebraska more than the bigness of the Big Red and a humble guy in a headset and red windbreaker.

Our very own Opie with a Ph.D. and a playbook.

The Beaver to Barry Switzer's Eddie Haskell, Dr. Tom in Washington and the white knight riding in to save the day as athletic director five years ago.

The fan mail has been inundating One Memorial Drive since the 75-year-old announced he was stepping down on Jan. 1 — 30, 40, 50 cards, letters and emails a day.

Happy to see you come out of the tunnel again, with the team ...

You know your accomplishments, but also you gave (us) dignity, pride, and peace of mind ...

I have been wanting to write to you since you announced your retirement. I was hoping that day wouldn't come ...

Every piece of mail opened and read and given to Osborne, the way it's been since he took over for Bob Devaney in 1973.

Osborne dictates a response to every congratulatory note, and every constructive critique.

He's always answered his fan mail, says a publicity-shy staffer, although the not-so-nice letters didn't always make it to his desk.

These days, the "Good Job, T.O." mail has an underlying theme that goes beyond football. *Thank you for your leadership, your character, what you've done for Nebraska ...*

Who can argue with that?

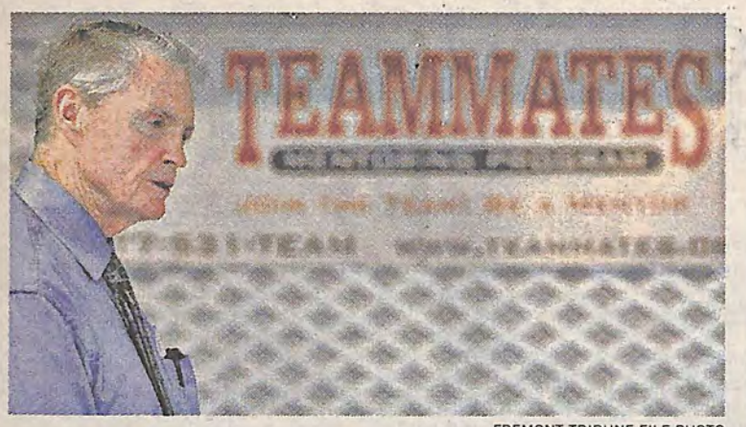
In a relationship this long, we forget the bad times. The years the thoughtful former quarterback couldn't quite — as another of Osborne's biggest fans might say — "Git-R-Done."

We remember the seasons that worked, not the never-quite-enough years.

We mellow. We grow to appreciate steady and consistent, understated and modest.

After Dr. Tom left the sidelines in 1997 and the tears of little boys

"Thank you Coach Osborne, a great model for young men, a great leader for college football and our nation. A great mentor for our youth and a great friend. We greatly appreciate you."
- Bill Snyder and the entire K-State Family.
Bill Snyder
K-STATE
FOOTBALL



FREMONT TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

In 1991, Tom and Nancy Osborne launched TeamMates, a program aimed at providing support and encouragement for children.

and grown men dried, a lot of us became even bigger fans.

Who couldn't root for TeamMates?

Or a man who went on to learn a new playbook as a congressman, lost the governor's race with grace, steadied the ground five years ago and grimaced but put on a ball cap and letter jacket anyway to give the rest of us one last football Saturday lump in our throats?

Reach Cindy Lange-Kubick at 402-473-7218 or clangekubick@journalstar.com.

ONE OF THE LAST OF HIS KIND?

Tom Osborne was Nebraska's head coach for 25 seasons, a stretch that is rare among college coaches these days. Whether it's less patience from an athletic department or better jobs, the majority of coaches are not staying in one place too long. Though it's rare to find a coach at one school for 25 years in any era, seldom do you see coaches reach 10 seasons with one program now.

Currently in Big Ten

Coach, school	Yrs.
Kirk Ferentz, Iowa	14
Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern	7
Bret Bielema, Wisconsin*	7
Mark Dantonio, Michigan State	7
Bo Pelini, Nebraska	5
Danny Hope, Purdue*	5
Brady Hoke, Michigan	2
Jerry Kill, Minnesota	2
Kevin Wilson, Indiana	2
Todd Beckman, Illinois	1
Tom O'Brien, Penn State	1
Urban Meyer, Ohio State	1

Around the nation

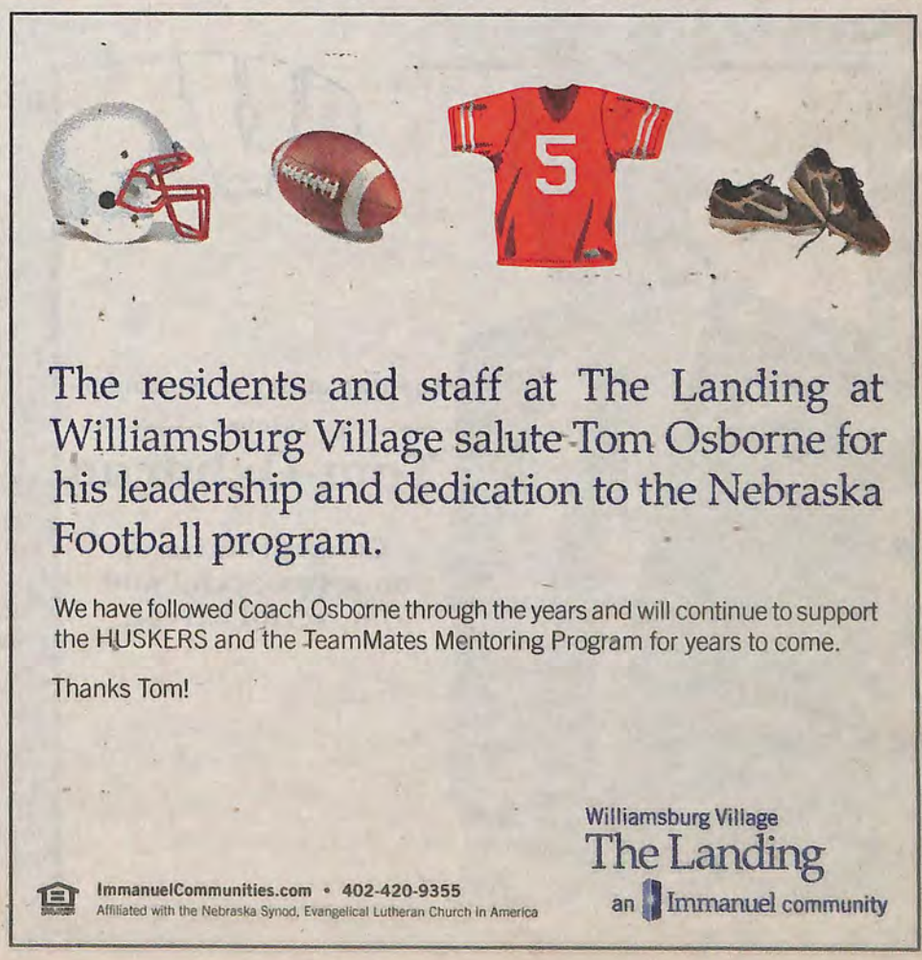
Coach, school	Yrs.
Chris Ault, Nevada	28
Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech	26
Larry Blakeney, Troy	22
Bill Snyder, Kansas State	21
Mack Brown, Texas	15
Kirk Ferentz, Iowa	14
Bob Stoops, Oklahoma	14
Gary Patterson, TCU	13
Jim Grobe, Wake Forest	12
Gary Pinkel, Missouri	12
Mark Richt, Georgia	12
Jeff Tedford, Californinia*	11

* No longer with program

Worth noting

99 That's the number of Division I programs (out of 124) that have hired at least one new head coach since 2008, including nine schools in the Big Ten.

It's good.
Thanks Coach Osborne for your Commitment and Dedication.
Enjoy your Retirement. From your Friends at Pepsi.
pepsi
pepsi THE OFFICIAL SOFT DRINK OF THE HUSKERS
N


5
The residents and staff at The Landing at Williamsburg Village salute Tom Osborne for his leadership and dedication to the Nebraska Football program.
We have followed Coach Osborne through the years and will continue to support the HUSKERS and the TeamMates Mentoring Program for years to come.
Thanks Tom!
ImmanuelCommunities.com • 402-420-9355
Affiliated with the Nebraska Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Williamsburg Village
The Landing
an Immanuel community

SUCCESS: FROM HASTINGS TO LINCOLN

From his days as a state college star to his time at Nebraska, Osborne always set the bar high.

Feb. 23, 1937
Tom Osborne is born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Osborne.

1955
Osborne graduates from Hastings High School.

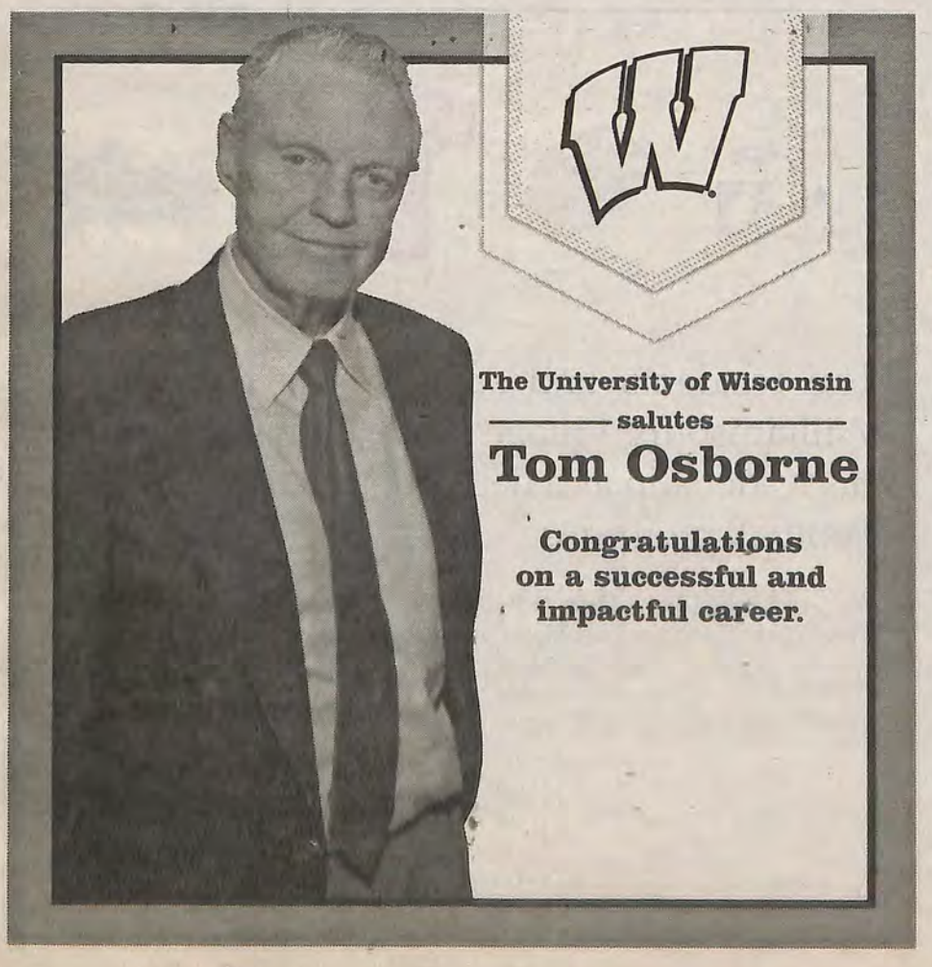
1959
For the second straight year, Osborne is named the Lincoln Journal Star's State College Athlete of the Year after a standout career as a quarterback on the football team and a basketball player for Hastings College.

1960
Is released by the San Francisco 49ers and picked up by Washington.

1961
Retires from professional football. Finishes career with 29 receptions for 343 yards and two touchdowns.

1962
Joins Bob Devaney's staff at Nebraska as a graduate assistant coach.

August 1962
Marries the former Nancy Tederman.



1963
Earns his Master's degree at Nebraska.

1965
Earns Ph.D. in educational pyschology. He serves at Nebraska as Instructor of Educational Pyschology in the Teachers College and a part-time coach under Devaney.

1967
Joins Devaney's staff as full-time coach; becomes Husker receivers coach during first full season on coaching staff.

Jan. 17, 1972
Devaney announces he will step down as Nebraska's coach following the 1972 season and handpicks the 34-year-old Osborne as his successor. Osborne is named assistant head coach and director of recruiting for Devaney's final season at NU.

Dec. 9, 1972
Is awarded a five-year contract as the head coach at Nebraska. His first salary is $23,000.

Jan. 2, 1973
Becomes 25th head football coach in Nebraska history the day after Devaney coaches his last game — a 40-6 victory against Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.

Sept. 8, 1973
Nebraska opens the Osborne era with a 40-13 win against UCLA.

Oct. 13, 1973
Nebraska suffers first loss under Osborne when Missouri beats Huskers 13-12 in Columbia, Mo.

Jan. 1, 1974
Nebraska wins its first bowl game under Osborne with a 19-3 decision over Texas in the Cotton Bowl.

Nov. 23, 1974
NU faces a No. 1 team for the first time under Osborne as the head coach. The Huskers lose to Oklahoma 28-14, the second of five straight losses to the Sooners.

Sept. 11, 1976
Nebraska opens the season as The Associated Press top-ranked team, the first time the Huskers have been atop one of the major polls under Osborne. A 6-6 tie with unranked Louisiana State drops NU to No. 8 the next week.

Nov. 11, 1978
After losing to Oklahoma five straight years, Osborne finally beats the Sooners when the Huskers claim a 17-14 victory at NU's Memorial Stadium. The win against the Barry Switzer-coached Sooners gives Nebraska its first Big Eight title and first Orange Bowl berth under Osborne.

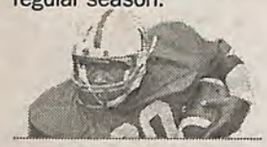
Sept. 25, 1982
The only thing standing between Nebraska and a national championship is a 27-24 loss to Penn State. The Huskers finish the season 12-1 and ranked third.

Sept. 24, 1983
Osborne gets his 100th career victory as the Huskers beat UCLA 42-10 at Memorial Stadium.

Oct. 8, 1983
Osborne becomes the all-time winningest coach in Nebraska history when the Huskers give him his 102nd career victory with a 14-10 defeat of Oklahoma State. With the win, Osborne passes Devaney, who led Nebraska to 101 wins during his tenure at the school.

Tom Osborne stands with Bob Devaney after at an event celebrating Osborne's 102nd career win, which passed Devaney on the all-time wins chart at Nebraska. LJS ARCHIVES

December, 1983
Mike Rozier (below) becomes Osborne's only Heisman Trophy winner. Rozier rushed for a school-record 2,148 yards in leading the "Scoring Explosion" offense during a 12-0 regular season.



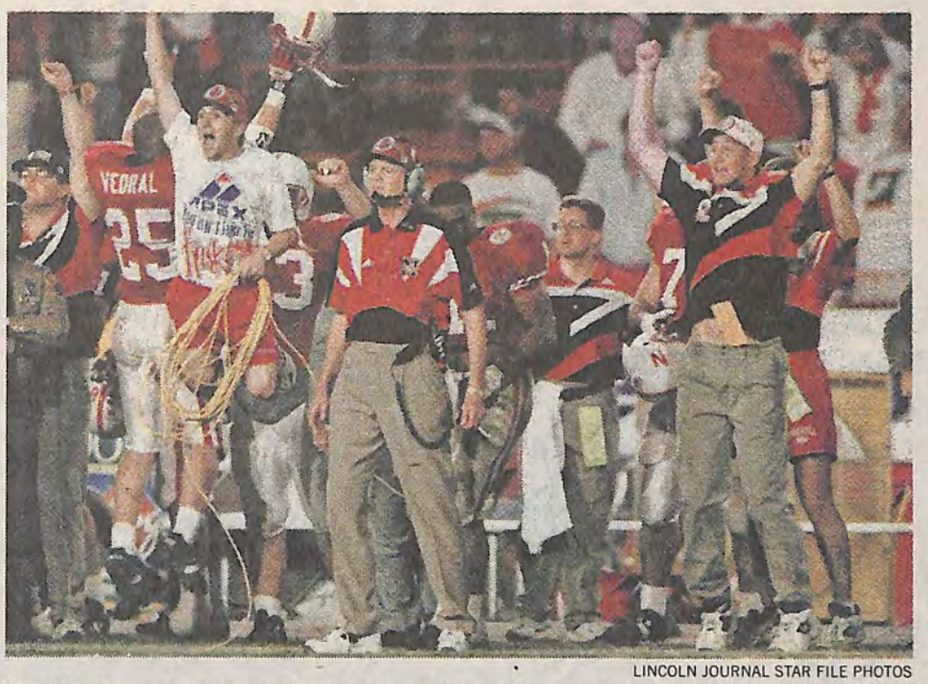
Jan. 2, 1984
Nebraska, playing for the national championship, loses to Miami 31-30 when Turner Gill's pass to Jeff Smith on a two-point conversion is foiled with 48 seconds left. Smith scored on a 24-yard run to cut Miami's lead to one point, and Osborne elected to go for two instead of settling for a tie.

Oct. 7, 1993
Osborne gets his 200th win at Nebraska with a 27-13 victory against Oklahoma State.

Jan. 1, 1995
Nebraska wins its first national championship under Osborne, and the first at the school since 1971, when the Huskers beat Miami 24-17 in the Orange Bowl.

Jan. 2, 1996
Nebraska wins its second straight national title when it defeats No. 2 Florida 62-24 in the Fiesta Bowl.

Nov. 1, 1997
Nebraska gives Osborne his 250th victory with a 69-7 thumping of Oklahoma at Memorial Stadium.



LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTOS

The sideline erupts during Nebraska's Orange Bowl victory against Miami on Jan. 1, 1995. The Huskers won 24-17, clinching NU's first national title under Tom Osborne.

Dec. 6, 1997
NU beats Texas A&M 54-15 as the Huskers win their first Big 12 Conference championship. It's the 13th conference title (12 were in the Big Eight) during Osborne's 25 years at Nebraska.

Dec. 10, 1997
Osborne announces his retirement, effective after the Jan. 2 Orange Bowl.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 26

Jan. 2, 1998
Coaches his final game, a 42-17 victory vs. No. 3 Tennessee (Orange Bowl).

Jan. 27, 2000
Embarks on a new chapter, running for Nebraska's 3rd District congressional seat. The Republican wins 82 percent of the vote.

Aug. 10, 2004
The North Stadium expansion project is named the Tom and Nancy Osborne Athletic Complex. The expansion added 5,000 seats, including skyboxes, to Memorial Stadium, and included a new locker room for the football team, training facilities and a weight room, in addition to office space for football staff and athletic department administration.

May 9, 2006
Osborne runs for governor, but loses the Republican primary to Dave Heineman 49 percent to 45 percent.

Oct. 16, 2007
Osborne is hired by UNL chancellor Harvey Perlman to revive the Husker athletic department after the firing of Steve Pederson.

Nov. 24, 2007
Osborne fires Bill Callahan as football coach.

Dec. 2, 2007
T.O. hires former Nebraska defensive coordinator Bo Pelini as Callahan's replacement. Pelini had been an assistant under Les Miles at LSU.

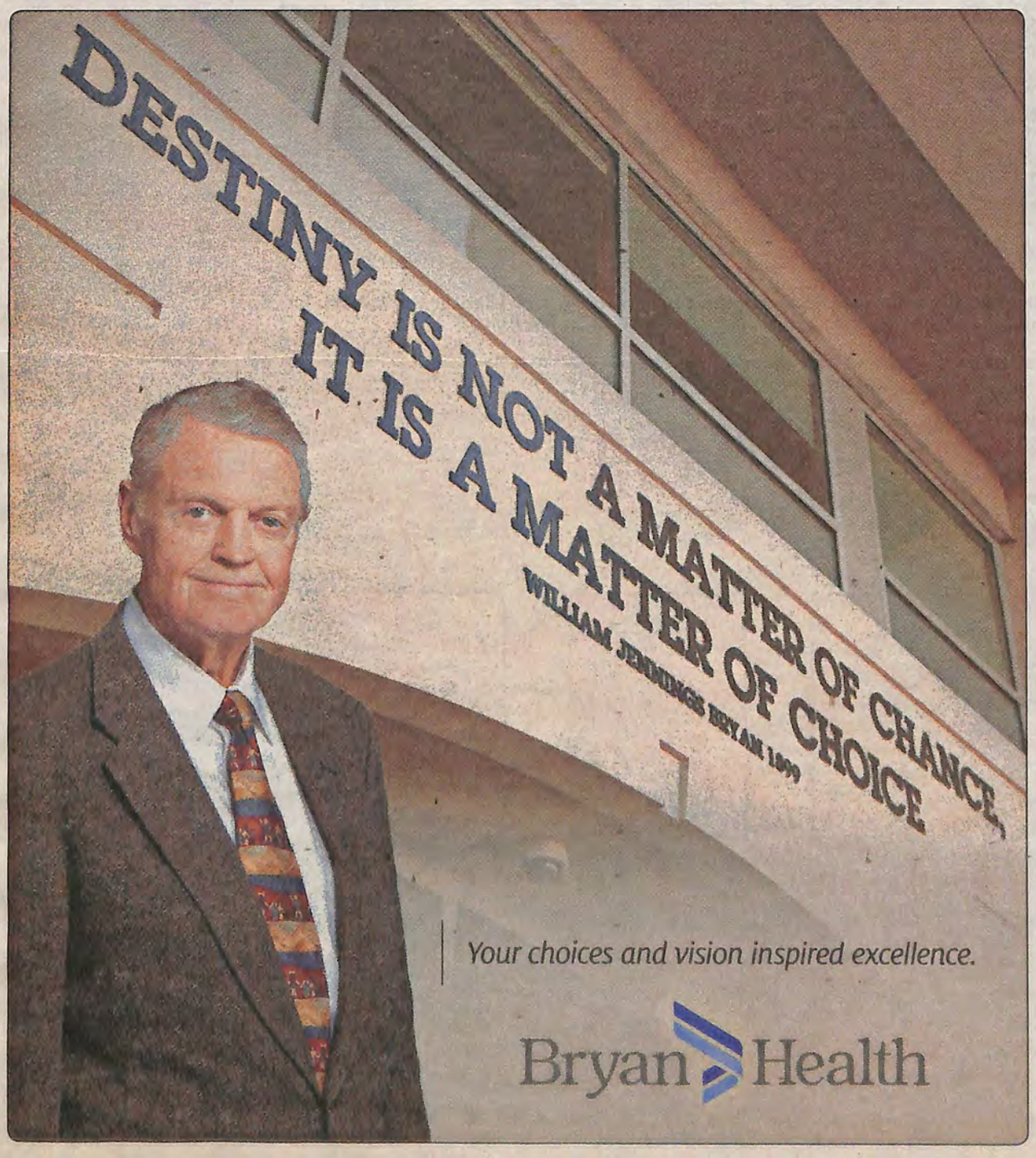
June 2, 2011
Osborne hires Darin Erstad as baseball coach, replacing Mike Anderson.

June 11, 2010
Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany annouces Nebraska's entrance into the Big Ten.

March 24, 2012
Osborne hires Tim Miles as men's basketball coach, replacing Doc Sadler.

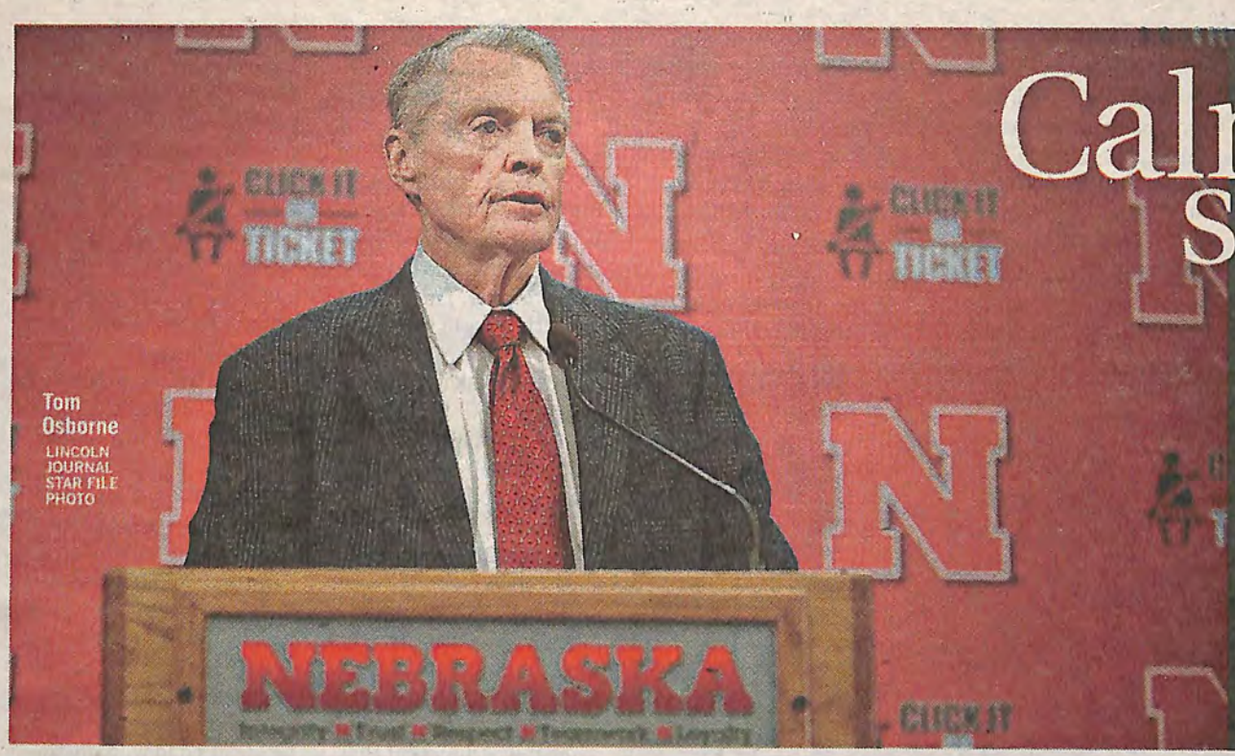
Sept. 26, 2012
Osborne announces his retirement as NU athletic director, effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Nov. 17, 2012
Osborne runs out of the tunnel with the football team in his final home game as Nebraska athletic director.


DESTINY IS NOT A MATTER OF CHANCE,
IT IS A MATTER OF CHOICE
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN 1899
Your choices and vision inspired excellence.
Bryan Health

FRANCIS GARDLER/Lincoln Journal Star file photo

Tom Osborne (left) walks onto the field with coach Bo Pelini before Nebraska's game against Minnesota.



Tom Osborne
LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTO

Calm & steady

Osborne brought his sideline traits to role as athletic director.

By BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON | LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

All around him, commotion. The kind that comes after a team runs an option play on fourth-and-8 (really, who has the guts to call that?) and puts the ball in the end zone with a national championship on the line.

"Look at this play!" NBC's Don Criqui screamed into the microphone as Jeff Smith scooted 24 yards, diving inside the pylon. "Touchdown, Nebraska!"

Those at the 1984 Orange Bowl can still vividly recall the delirium in the stadium.

See CALM, Page 28

Original Nebraska Grocers
Salute an Original Nebraska Legend...

Thanks Tom

Employee Owned
SUPER SAVER
We Sell for Less
www.super-saver.com

Russ's MARKET
Because Quality Matters
www.russmarket.com

A Tribute to Tom...

Saturday, March 9th, 2013

Join us at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha.

Purchase tables of 10 from $2,500-$10,000 based on location.

All proceeds go to TEAMMATES and the Nebraska Athletic Research Complex

For more information call Huskers Athletic Fund at 800-8-BIGRED

Calm

Continued from Page 27

Back in Nebraska living rooms, the mood was similar: hoarse screaming and jubilance, spilled bean dip and chaos.

Immediately after the score, the TV cameras flashed to Tom Osborne.

He was already in the ears of two players, calling for a two-point conversion that would either win or lose the game.

Steady, calm. He was already busy plotting the next move when everyone else still needed a few seconds to digest the last one.

Had you not been aware of the goings-on around him, his demeanor could have confused you into thinking he was making a play call against New Mexico State in September.

Of course, this seems to hit at the center of what Nebraskans have always loved about Osborne the most: He was the steady hand on the wheel you could count on even when everybody else was losing their head.

It is something many will surely miss as Osborne's time as Husker athletic director comes to an end Jan. 1.

A few years ago, former Husker split end Frosty Anderson, a senior on Osborne's first team in 1973, recalled a moment from T.O.'s first game as Nebraska's head man.

The Huskers were playing a top-10 UCLA team. With Bob Devaney gone, some people worried the ride was over. They feared a potential loss in Osborne's debut.

But Nebraska blitzed the Bruins 40-13 that day, taking command in the first quarter when Randy Borg returned a punt 77 yards for a score.

We bring that play up for a reason.

"When Randy broke into the open like that, I was standing right next to Ozzie," Anderson once told the Journal Star. "And when it was apparent that he was going to go, I started to jump up and down and grab him (Osborne) by the arm and really start to rock him, shake him, 'Hey, he's going to go all the way.' And he kind of shrugged me off. He was thinking about the next play."

Osborne never seemed to change his demeanor — even when he had put the coaching headset away.

As athletic director, he was put to one of the biggest tests of his career in the summer of 2010 when conference realignment arrived — a staredown with Texas.

There was a memorable meeting that June in which Big 12 athletic directors and school presidents played a high-stakes game of poker amid rumors that Nebraska and Missouri had a foot out the door, and then rumors that six southern league schools might bolt for the Pac-10.

After one meeting, Osborne found himself cornered by reporters, his back literally and figuratively against the wall. And after the final meeting, a report came out of Texas that Nebraska had been given a deadline to decide if it was staying in the Big 12.

There was initially a certain degree of panic around the state when that report came out. "Nebraska has until 5 p.m. on Friday to tell us what they're going to do," one of the Big 12 officials said.

A Journal Star reporter reached Osborne that night shortly after the report came out. What about this deadline? Was Nebraska in a bad spot?

On the other end of the line, Osborne responded with the same composure he always had walking the sidelines.

"I really don't know what the final parameters are," he said, not acknowledging any deadline.

"Eventually, all of the facts will come out."

There was plenty of chatter in Texas during that time about this and that. But Osborne knew silence was better.

He didn't say much the next few days. He'd say his part six days after the report of that deadline. He'd say that Nebraska was going to the Big Ten.

Considering the Big 12's choppy waters at that time, and the security and financial boon the Big Ten offered, most Nebraskans were no doubt once again thankful Osborne had written that letter in the 1960s.

It was a letter to Devaney, inquiring to see if Osborne might be able to help coach while attending grad school.

Devaney wrote back that

TOM OSBORNE
"The effectiveness of leadership is measured in terms of influence."
~ John MacArthur ~
Thank you for the leadership, influence and integrity you have provided to thousands of people in our community, state and country.
OFFICIAL HOSPITAL of University of Nebraska Athletics
CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES
Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center

he couldn't pay much, if anything, but he'd like to have Osborne around.

According to a Journal and Star story from 1972, Osborne didn't receive a salary at the beginning. His compensation was free meals at the training table.

But Osborne, who earned a Ph.D. in educational psychology, saw his future in football.

"The longer I coached the more I liked it," he said as he prepared for his first season as head coach. "It got to a decision point. There's no way you can be a half-time coach. You can't do anything halftime and do it well."

He'd go on to post a 255-49-3 record in his 25 years as Nebraska's head coach, with his team winning three national championships and winning at least nine games every year.

It is why, despite his foray into politics and time as athletic director, most who come across him still call him "Coach."

The game of football always intrigued him, he said in a 1987 interview with the Journal Star. But as much as anything, it was being around fellow coaches and players.

"I enjoy seeing people make something out of themselves," he said then. "Some are disappointments, but you win more than you lose. I like people in athletics. They are committed, disciplined. They're risk takers. They know something about paying a price."

You can make a lot of friends on the journey.

Not that long ago, Public Policy Polling asked Nebraskans to give their opinion of Osborne. With many people, even headline makers, it's hard to get at least 70 percent of the population to even know who you are, let alone think highly of you.

But in Osborne's case, he received a favorability rating of 86 percent.

And this week, as Osborne prepares to leave the athletic department he first joined 50 years ago, there will be much nostalgia and memories shared.

Deserved, certainly.

Everyone else can look back. Here's guessing Osborne's thinking about his next play.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

In the midst of Nebraska exploring a move to the Big Ten Conference, athletic director Tom Osborne is stopped by reporters outside the Big 12 meetings in June 2010.

League titles under Osborne (the AD)

Women's gymnastics: The Huskers won the 2011 title, NU's last Big 12 championship in any sport.

Volleyball: The Huskers won the 2011 Big Ten Conference title in Nebraska's first year in the league.

Indoor track and field: The Husker women held off Penn State for the Big Ten championship. The meet was held at the Devaney Sports Center.

Football: The Huskers won the 2012 Big Ten Legends Division title before losing to Wisconsin in the league title game.

NU athletic directors

1928-31: H.D. Gish

1932-36: Dana X. Bible

1937-42: "Biff" Jones

1942-47: A.J. Lewandowski

1948-53: George "Potsy" Clark

1954-60: J.W. "Bill" Orwig

1961: Interim Charles Miller/Joe Soshnik (He was also chancellor)

1962-66: "Tippy" Dye

1967-92: Bob Devaney

1993-02: Bill Byrne

2003-07: Steve Pederson

2007-12: Tom Osborne

Thanks, Tom!
usbank
The dictionary defines Integrity as "A steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code."
While many words can be used to describe Tom Osborne, there is perhaps none better than the word Integrity. Whether in his personal life or professional career, Coach Osborne has consistently confirmed what it means to be a person of character.
Thank you, Tom, for all you have done for the University, the State of Nebraska and the many young people whose lives you have touched. Congratulations on your many stellar careers and for demonstrating the true meaning of Integrity.
The associates of U.S. Bank wish all the best for you and Nancy.
usbank.com
Member FDIC
All of us serving you
usbank.

IN THEIR WORDS

FORMER PLAYERS AND PEERS GIVE THEIR TAKE ON TOM OSBORNE

"When you're 75, you don't need a reason to retire. If he wants to go fishing every day, knock your socks off. You see buildings going up. All the best facilities in the country. He made it a mission to make sure Nebraska had the best in the country."

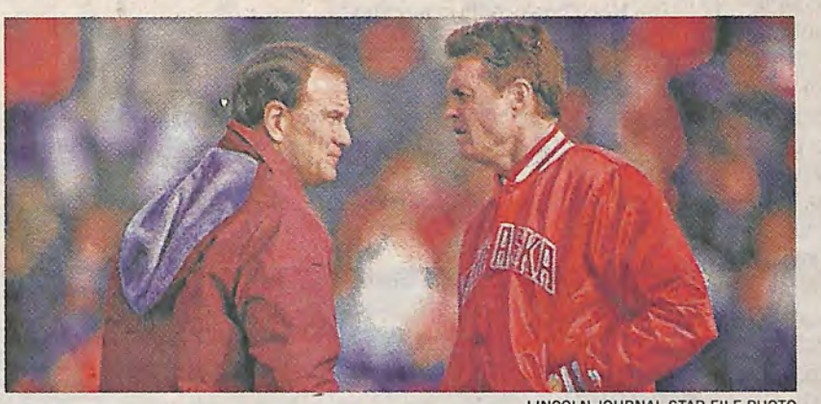
— Darin Erstad, NU baseball coach

"Bob Devaney brought us to new heights and Tom took it a step further. Tom went on to build it better, make it better and he did it all from coaching, to politics, to athletic administration."

— Johnny Rodgers, ex-Husker

"He didn't have the best CEO skills, but he knew more about psychology — he got his doctorate when it was really hard — developed trust and got everything done he wanted done. He made it so people didn't want to disappoint him."

— Dr. Jack Stark, ex-UNL sports psychologist



LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTO

"He did it for 25 years on the field and I did it for 16, and those last nine years he kept coaching, his teams were dominant like no other in college history. I hope he gives me a call to go fishing. We're both in the fourth quarter of life and want to keep calling the plays, and maybe get some overtime."

— Barry Switzer (left), ex-Oklahoma coach

"He made the football program the best in the country and when he left they kind of hit the skids, and I think he felt an obligation to straighten things out."

— Bobby Bowden, former Florida State coach

"No. 1, you could trust Tom Osborne. That's why he got people to open their pocketbooks more than anybody before him. People think the world of Tom Osborne as a coach and learned he was the same man as an administrator."

— Grant Wistrom, ex-Husker

"Who better than Tom? This is what Tom wanted all along. The best athletic department in the country. He went out and got it. He worked to get us back where we should be. Not everybody could do that. Tom did. You can't walk far on the campus and not run into a building he didn't build or run into a person he didn't have a positive effect on."

— Charlie McBride, former Husker assistant

Congratulations Coach on Your Retirement

Tom Osborne has been a part of the University of Nebraska athletic department for nearly a half century and during that time provided Nebraskans with many great memories and a proud tradition of sportsmanship, integrity and excellence. Similarly, Farmers Mutual of Nebraska has been a leader in the Nebraska property-casualty insurance industry since 1891 and we continue to serve the insurance needs of Nebraskans by providing excellent insurance products at an affordable price. Best wishes on your retirement Coach Osborne and thank you for making us proud to be Nebraskans.

FM 1891

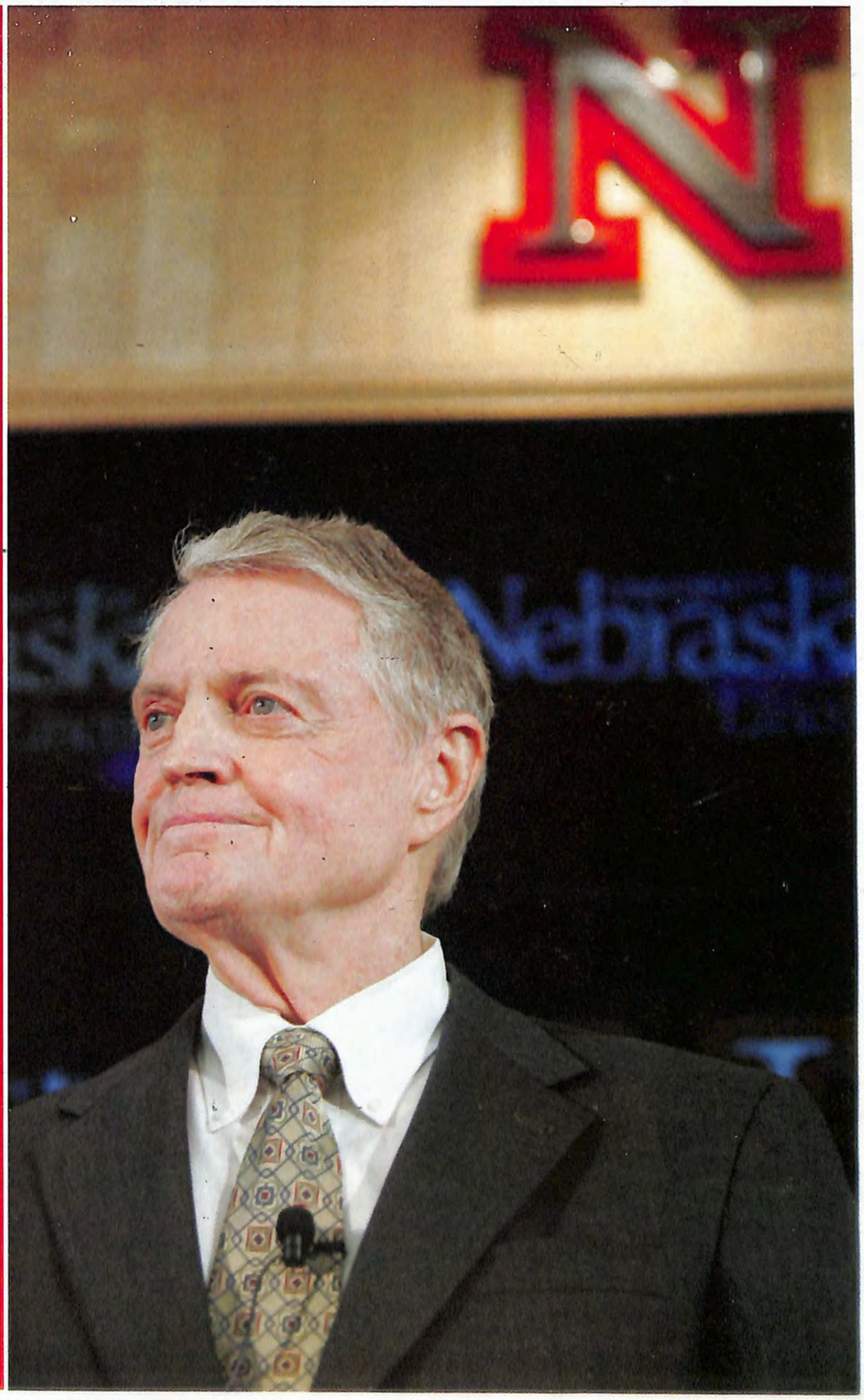
Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska

fmne.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEAGUE, MENTOR AND DEAR FRIEND

TOM OSBORNE

BIG®



©2012 Big Ten Conference

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES COACH

TOM OSBORNE
LEGEND & LEADER

PERFORMANCE
CHRYSLER • JEEP • DODGE • RAM

North 27TH & I-80, Exit 403
OF LINCOLN

DODGE RAM Jeep

WWW.PERFORMANCEAUTO.COM • 402-817-4600